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The Ahmadiyya GAZETTE USA

An informational, literary, educational, and training magazine of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, USA

Masih Mau'ood Edition

Scenes from 2011 West Coast USA Jalsa Salana

AHMADIYYA
MUSLIM COMMUNITY
United States of America

Muslims who believe in the Messiah,
*Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani*as

Maulana Naseem Mahdi Sahib, Na'ib Ameer and Missionary In-charge USA delivering invocation at State of Pennsylvania Assembly

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Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

saw:	sallallahu alaihi wasallam (Peace and Blessing of Allah be upon him)
as:	alaihissalam (Peace be upon him)
ra:	radhi allahu 'anhu (May Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh:	rahimahullahu ta'ala (May Allah shower mercy on him/her)
aba:	ayyada hullah ta'ala binasrihil aziz (May Allah strengthen him with His mighty help)
swt:	subhana wa ta'ala (Holy and Exalted)

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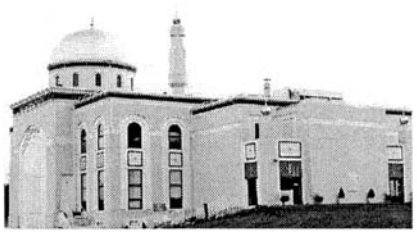

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Al-Qur'an

اِذْ قَالَ اللّٰهُ يٰعِيْسٰى اِنِّىْ مُتَوَفِّيْكَ وَ رَافِعُكَ اِلَيَّ وَ مُطَهِّرُكَ مِنَ الَّذِيْنَ كَفَرُوْا وَ جَاعِلُ الَّذِيْنَ اتَّبَعُوْكَ فَوْقَ الَّذِيْنَ كَفَرُوْٓا اِلٰى يَوْمِ الْقِيٰمَةِ ۚ ثُمَّ اِلَيَّ مَرْجِعُكُمْ فَاَحْكُمُ بَيْنَكُمْ فِيْمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيْهِ تَخْتَلِفُوْنَ ۝

When Allah said, 'O Jesus, I will cause thee to die *a natural death* and will exalt thee to Myself, and will clear thee from *the charges of* those who disbelieve, and will place those who follow thee above those who disbelieve, untill the Day of Resurrection, then to Me shall be your return, and I will judge between you concerning that wherein you differ. (3:56)

COMMENTARY:

Mutawaffi is derived from *Tawaffa*. They say *Tawaffa Allahu Zaidan*, i.e., God took away the soul of Zaid, namely He caused him to die. When God is the subject and a human being the object, *Tawaffa* has no other meaning than that of taking away the soul, whether in sleep or death. Ibn 'Abbas has translated *Mutawaffi-ka* as *Mumitu-ka*, i.e., I will cause thee to die (*Bukhari*). Similarly, Zamakhshari, an Arabic linguist of great repute, says: *Mutawaffi-ka* means, I will protect thee from being killed by the people and will grant thee full lease of life ordained for thee, and will cause thee to die a natrural death, not being killed." *(Kashshaf)*. In fact, all Arabic lexicographers are agreed on the point that the word *Tawaffa* as used in the aforesaid manner, can bear no other interpretation and not a single instance from the whole Arabic literature can be cited of this word having been used in any other sense. Outstanding schoars and Commentators like (1) Ibn 'Abbas, (2) *Imam* Malik, (3) *Imam* Bukhari (4) *Imam* Ibn Hazm (5) *Imam* Ibn Qayyim (6) Qatasah (7) Wahhab and others are of the same view (*Bukhari*, Chapter on *Tafsir*; *Bukhari*, Chapter on *Bad' al-Khalq*; *Bihar*; *Al-Muhalla*; *Ma'ad*, p. 19; *Manthur* ii; *Kathir*). The word has been used in no less than 25 different plaves in the Qur'an and in no less than 23 of them the meaning is to take away the soul at the time of sleep; but here the qualifying word "sleep" or "night" has been added (6:61; 39:43). The fact cannot be denied that Jesus is dead. The Holy Prophet[saw] is reported to have said, "Had Moses and Jesus now been alive, they would have found themselves forced to follow me." (Kathir). He even fixed the age of Jesus at 120 years (*'Ummal*). The Qur'an, in as many as 30 verses, has completely demolished the absurd belief of the physical assension of Jesus to, and his supposed life in, heaven.

Al-Hadith

اَلاَ اِنَّ عِيْسَى بْنَ مَرْيَمَ لَيْسَ بَيْنِيْ وَ بَيْنَه‘ نَبِيٌّ وَ لاَ رَسُوْلٌ ‘ اَلاَ اِنَّه‘ خَلِيْفَتِيْ فِيْ اُمَّتِيْ مِنْ بَعْدِيْ ‘ اَلاَ اِنَّه‘ يَقْتُلُ الدَّجَّالَ وَ يَكْسِرُ الصَّلِيْبَ وَ يَضَعُ الْجِزْيَةَ ‘ وَ تَضَعُ الْحَرْبُ اَوْزَارَهَا ‘ اَلاَ مَنْ اَدْرَكَه‘ فَلْيَقْرَاْ عَلَيْهِ السَّلاَمَ ـ

Beware! No Messenger or Prophet will come during the period between Jesus[as] son of Mary (The Promised Messiah[as]) and me. Hearken! He will be my vicegerent after me in my followers. He will certainly kill the Antichrist, break the cross and end the poll-tax. At that time wars will end. Remember! Whosoever gets the honour of meeting him, should convey my *Salām* to him.

(Ṭibrānil ausaṭ wassaghīr)

عَنْ عَبْدِ اللّٰهِ بْنِ عَمْرٍو رَضِيَ اللّٰهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ: قَالَ رَسُوْلُ اللّٰهِ صَلَّى اللّٰهُ عَلَيْهِ وَ سَلَّمَ يَنْزِلُ (١) عِيْسَى بْنُ مَرْيَمَ اِلَى الْاَرْضِ فَيَتَزَوَّجُ وَ يُوْلَدُ لَه‘ وَ يَمْكُثُ خَمْسًا وَ اَرْبَعِيْنَ سَنَةً ثُمَّ يَمُوْتُ فَيُدْفَنُ مَعِيَ فِيْ قَبْرِيْ فَاَقُوْمُ اَنَا وَ عِيْسَى بْنُ مَرْيَمَ فِيْ قَبْرٍ وَاحِدٍ بَيْنَ اَبِيْ بَكْرٍ وَ عُمَرَ ـ

Ḥaḍrat ‘Abdullāh bin ‘Amr[ra] relates that the Messenger[sa] of Allāh said: "Jesus son of Mary (the Promised Messiah) will descend to a land, he will marry, have children, will live about forty-five years, and then will pass away and will be buried with me in my grave. Thus, I and the Jesus son of Mary (the Promised Messiah) will get up from a grave between Abū Bakr[ra] and ‘Umar[ra]."

(Mishkāt bāb nuzūl ‘Īsā, p 480)

(١) عِيْسٰى عَلَيْه السَّلاَمُ يَنْزِلُ فِيْنَا مِنْ غَيْرِ تَشْرِيْعٍ وَ هُوَ نَبِيٌّ بِلاَ شَكٍّ ـ

Jesus[as] will appear amongst us without a Religious Law. However, there is no doubt that he will be a Prophet.

(Fatūḥāt-e-Makkiyya, p 57/1, Muslim, p 87/101 and Musnad Aḥmad, p 3453)

SAYINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH[AS]

There is none worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah

I believe about the Holy Prophet[saw] that:

I make declarations on the truthfulness of this statement of mine equal to the names of Almighty Allah, and the number of words in the Holy Qur'an, and in accordance with the perfections attained by the Holy Prophet[saw] in the determination of Allah. No part of my doctrine is contrary to the commandments of Allah and His Messenger. If anyone thinks so, it must be due to his misunderstanding. Anyone who still considers me a *kafir*, and does not desist from calling me one, should remember that he will be called to account for it after his death. I call God, the Glorious, to witness that I have such firm faith in God and His Messenger that if the faith of all the people of this age were placed on one side of the scale and my faith is placed on the other side, then, by Allah's grace, my faith would prove to be the heavier.

[Karamat-us-Sadiqeen, Roohani Khazain, vol. 7, p. 67]

The purport of my teaching is: Believe in God as One without associate, and have sympathy with God's creatures and be of good conduct and think no ill. Be such that no disorderliness or mischief should approach your heart. Utter no falsehood, invent no lies and cause no hurt to anyone whether by your tongue or your hands. Avoid all manner of sin and restrain your passions. Try to become pure hearted, without vice. It should be your principle to have sympathy for all human beings. Safeguard your hands, your tongues and your thoughts against all impure objects and disorderly ways and all kinds of deceit. Fear God and worship Him with pure hearts. Refrain from committing wrong, trespass, embezzlement, taking bribes or unfair partisanship and keep away from evil companions. Safeguard your eyes against treachery and your ears against listening to backbiting.

Entertain no ill designs against the members of any religion or any tribe or group. Be sincere counsellors for everyone. Let no mischief-maker or one given to bad behaviour ever be of your company. Shun every vice and try to acquire every virtue. Your hearts should be free from deceit, your hands should be innocent of wrong and your eyes should be free from impurity. Take no part in any evil or transgression. Put forth your utmost efforts to recognise God, finding Whom is salvation and meeting Whom is deliverance. He manifests Himself to him who seeks Him with love and sincerity of heart, and He reveals Himself to him who becomes truly His. Pure hearts are His thrones and tongues that are free from falsehood, abuse and vain talk are the places of His revelation. He who loses himself in seeking His pleasure becomes a manifestation of His miraculous power.

[Kashful Ghita, Roohani Khazain, Vol. 14, pp. 187-188]

Bear in mind that it is our faith that the last book and last law is the Holy Qur'an and that thereafter till the Day of Judgment, there is no law-bearing Prophet nor any recipient of revelation who is not a follower of the Holy Prophet[saw]. This door is closed till the Day of Judgment, but the door of revelation through following the Holy Prophet[saw] is ever open. Such revelation will never be cut off, but law-bearing Prophethood or independent Prophethood have been put to an end and will not be opened till the Day of Judgment. He who says he is not a follower of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[saw] and claims that he is a law-bearing Prophet, or is a Prophet without bearing a law, is like one who has been carried away by a fierce flood and is thrown aside and cannot recover himself till he dies.

[Review on the Debate between Batalawi and Chakrhalavi, Roohani Khazain, Vol. 19, p. 213]

Synopsis of Friday Sermon Delivered by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V[aba], on October 28, 2011 at Baitul Futuh Mosque, Morden, UK

Shermeen Butt

The Community that God initiated through the Promised Messiah[as] has been given the distinction that it was joined to the early Muslims. This is not an ordinary distinction or indeed an ordinary Community. Hundreds of thousands of pious-natured people departed this world in the hope of finding this era. Each one of us who associates him or herself to the Ahmadiyya Community should reflect over these matters. The Companions of the Holy Prophet[saw] took his *Bai'at* and by virtue of his moral training they forged a connection with God of such stature that God stated in the Qur'an:

'And of men there is he who would sell himself to seek the pleasure of Allah...' (2:208)

The Companions[ra] put their lives on the line to seek God's pleasure and God in turn also blessed them greatly. Such was their vigour and eagerness to practice the commandments of the Qur'an that they would always ask the Prophet[saw] how else could they carry out virtuous acts, so much so that through a verse God stopped them from this by stating that while the *Shariah* was still be revealed they could put themselves in difficulty if certain commandments were to be given.

God keeps a most benevolent eye on His servants and is exceptionally Compassionate to those who are ever ready to put His commandments in practice. People who abide by His commandments, try and imbue Divine attributes on human level, they are kind and gentle to God's creation. Such are the teachings of true Islam; they connect man to God and then turn man to serve mankind. This is the path that the Companions[ra] followed and this is what the Promised Messiah[as] came to teach us. Therefore, we need to self-reflect and analyze ourselves.

Next Hazoor[aba] read out a few extracts from the noble writings of the Promised Messiah[as] which draw our attention towards self-reflection.

Elucidating the current-day situation, the Promised Messiah[as] said that the condition of the religious leaders of the time befits the Qur'anic statement of: 'O ye who believe! why do you say what you do not do?' (61:3). Their belief in the Qur'an is all but in name. *Ahadith* had foretold of a time when the Qur'an would go to heavens and the Promised Messiah[as] said that he was certain that time had come. True purity and *Taqwa* had left the world. He said why else would God have established the Ahmadiyya mission? Our opponents do not accept this, but a day will come when they will witness that the truth of the Promised Messiah[as] will be as clear as a bright day. He said God is Himself preparing a Community that would accept the Qur'an and every kind of contamination will be removed from the Community and a wholesome body of people will be created. The Promised Messiah[as] enjoined us to fully abide by all the commandments, lest anyone stumbles by observing us. He said when God's blessings shower down on the earth, along with the beneficial growth weeds and toxic plants also grow. Hazoor[aba] explained that this signifies that some wrong claimants will also rise. The

Promised Messiah[as] further said that this Community was based on Qur'anic teachings and *Ahadith* and is supported and corroborated by heavenly and earthly Signs. He said whoever comes from God is given a seal and in this age the seal granted to him was the Muhammadan seal. Hazoor[aba] explained that in the current age, anyone coming from God has to come in subordination of the Holy Prophet[saw] and will work under his seal alone.

Counseling his Community, the Promised Messiah[saw] wrote:

'O my *Jama'at*, may God Almighty be with you. May that Mighty Benefactor prepare you for the journey to the hereafter as the Companions of the Holy Prophet[saw] were prepared. Bear in mind that this world is nothing. Cursed is the life which is only for this world and unfortunate is the person whose all grief and sorrow is for the world. If there is such a one in my *Jama'at*, it is in vain that he considers himself to be in my *Jama'at*, for he is like a dry branch that will not bear fruit.

(Tadhkirat-ush-Shahadatain, Ruhani Khaza'in, vol. 20, p.63 – Essence of Islam, Vol. IV, pp. 277 – 278)

The Promised Messiah[as] wrote that according to him a fine way to purify oneself was to shun all forms of arrogance. Be it arrogance of learning, of one's lineage or wealth. When God grants a person insight, he or she sees that all light that can rid one of these evils comes from the heavens and man is dependent on heavenly light at all times. Just as the physical eye cannot see unless there is sunlight from the heavens, similarly the inner eye/insight that removes all kind of darkness and replaces it with the light of purity and *Taqwa* is from the heavens. He said truly man's *Taqwa*, faith, worship, purity, everything comes from the heavens and is dependent on God's grace.

Summing up, Hazoor[aba] said everything comes from God, therefore one should ever and only turn to Him.

The Promised Messiah[as] said that true spiritual insight is in considering oneself to be completely worthless and falling down on the threshold of God and seek God's grace and that spiritual light which burns selfish desires. Once a person gets a measure of God's grace and at times has conviction of heart then he or she must not feel arrogant about it. Rather his or her humility and humbleness should increase. The more a person considers him or herself to be insignificant, the greater will be the lights that descend on him or her. Abiding by this creed, it is hoped that one's moral condition becomes fine. It is arrogance to consider oneself to be someone in the world and it leads to treating others with contempt.

Hazoor[aba] said we all need to selfreflect whether we try and follow this excellent advice.

Calling on his Community, the Promised Messiah[as] said they should follow the teaching that has been given to him for the salvation of people. They should associate no partners with God, from the heavens or from the earth. He said God does not forbid making use of worldly means but those who leave God and only rely on worldly means are idolaters. God has always stated from the beginning that there is no salvation unless one purifies one's heart. Thus, one should free oneself of selfish rancor and anger. There are many kinds of impurities in the self that incite to evil (*Nafse Ammarah*) but the worst impurity is arrogance. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said had there been no arrogance no one would have remained a disbeliever. He said: 'Be meek of heart, in general be sympathetic to mankind when you preach to them to seek Paradise.'

Explaining, Hazoor[aba] said our religious scholars, those who summon people to God, render great services. However, at times when matters get personal, they are forgetful. At times, arrogance and egotism comes to the fore. As the Promised Messiah[as] elucidates above, when one preaches others for them to seek Paradise,

how can the preaching be right if the person who preaches wishes them ill in this world?

The Promised Messiah[as] continued to say that God's obligations should be undertaken with sincere fear or one will be held accountable. He advised to pray profusely during Salat so that God may draw to Himself and cleanse hearts. God's help is needed to remove every single ill. The reality of Islam is that the very soul of a person falls down on God's threshold and gives precedent to Him over everything else.

Hazoor[aba] said these days each Ahmadi needs to adopt this state so that we may draw God's blessings.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) wrote: 'O ye of my dear *Jama'at*! Believe firmly in the fact that the world is now approaching its end and a radical change has begun to appear. Do not, therefore, deceive your souls, and turn immediately to attaining perfection in piety and righteousness. Make the Holy Quran your true guide and acquire true light from it for your every need. You must not neglect the Traditions of the Holy Prophet, may peace and blessings of Allah be upon him, either, and must not consider these to be useless. Nay, these also are most important and were collected and compiled at the expense of very great effort and hardship. But beware when a Hadith happens to clash with the Holy Quran, disregard it totally so that you may save yourselves from going astray. God has caused the Holy Quran to reach you in its pristine purity, therefore, give the greatest importance to the Word of God and let nothing take precedence over it, because all truth and righteousness are based on it. People regard and have faith in the exhortations of men according to the measure of their piety and righteousness.' (*Tadhkirat-ush-Shahadatain*, 'Some words of advice to my Community' – alislam.org)

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) enjoined that most certainly rich people who eat well and have fine clothes are not dear to God. Rather, those who give precedence to faith over worldly matters are the ones who are dear to God. He said if he observed the current state of the Community, it saddened him to see it so weak, with so many junctures for it to accomplish. Yet, he said when he reflected over the Divine promises made to him, his sadness transformed into hope. Among the promises, one is: '...and will place those who follow thee above those who disbelieve, until the Day of Resurrection...' (3:56)

Hazoor[aba] said if this is how the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) felt, how greater should be our concern in the present time.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said while it was true that his followers would be triumphant, but everyone who took his *Bai'at* could not be included in his followers, until he or she was completely and perfectly obedient to him and did not consider anything of him or herself. He said this showed that God had willed to give him a community that would dissolve itself in his obedience and would follow him completely. This gave him assurance and hope. He said it was not that he was concerned about given such a community; it was God's promise to him that he would be given a community like that. His concern was about the undeveloped stage the Community was at the time.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that a worldly person who is included in his Community is not really from his Community in the eyes of God. Only that person is included in this Community who is free from this world. He said none should assume that the Community would be diminished due to this; such a thought took one away from God. God does not ever waste a person who becomes wholly His, rather He Himself provides for such a person. A person, who loses something in the way of God, attains its equivalent. God loves those who obey His commandments and their progeny alone is blessed. A truly obedient person of God or his progeny is never destroyed. People who leave God and are inclined to the world have their world destroyed. Counseling his Community the Promised Messiah[as] said that they should be sympathetic to people without

distinction, no matter which religion they belonged to for this is what the Qur'an taught: 'And they feed, for love of Him, the poor, the orphan, and the prisoner...' (76:9) The Promised Messiah[as] said that the prisoners in days of early Islam were indeed disbelievers. He said it pained him when he frequently heard that so and so did this and so and so did that. He considered the Community like a child who takes one step forwards and two steps back. But he was firm in the belief that God would perfect the Community. Therefore, he urged: 'you too make an effort; stay engaged in planning, spiritual exercise and prayer so that Allah the Exalted blesses because nothing can be achieved without His blessings. When grace descends He opens up all ways.'

Hazoor[aba] said with God's grace, the Community has matured in some ways but with the passage of time since the days of the Promised Messiah[as] getting longer, some ills are taking root; like arrogance, selfishness. In places these are very noticeable; like mutual rancor, taking each other through the courts etc. Hazoor[aba] said if one wished to be known as a deserving part of the Community one has to be keep an eye on oneself at all times. What use is our knowledge if it is not useful at the opportune time? As the Promised Messiah[as] said, at times *Tabligh* efforts do not correspond with the state of individuals. Only that knowledge is of any use which is reflected in one's personality. Our knowledge is useless unless it demonstrates our internal/mutual connections as one. Today when opposition against the Community is very intense, we need to keep personal wishes in the background and present an exemplary model of unity at every level. As the Promised Messiah[as] said God wants this Community to be on the model of the Companions[ra]. May God enable us to do so.

Hazoor[aba] said following his long bout of cough during last Friday sermon many wrote him concerned, including some from Arab countries. Hazoor[aba] said people sent him many remedies and Hazoor[aba] joked that if he tried them, he would perhaps feel worse. Hazoor[aba] said may God reward everyone who wrote to him. Hazoor[aba] said ailments run their course, Hazoor[aba] is treating himself with homeopathy; may God bless. Hazoor[aba] asked to be remembered in prayers.

****

HADITH

Hadhrat 'Imran bin Husain[ra] relates that the Holy Prophet[saw] said: "The best century of yours is the one in which I am living. Thereafter are those who will come next to them; then those who will come next to them. Hadhrat 'Imran[ra] says: 'I do not remember whether the Holy Prophet[saw] said 'then next' twice or thrice.' Thereafter, will come such people who will testify without being asked to testify. They would make vows but would not fulfill them, and they will be obese.' "

(Muslim kitabul fadai 'l bab fadlassahabah thummalladhina yalaunahum thummalladhina yalaunahum)

Hadhrat 'Umar bin Al-Khattab[ra] relates that he heard the Messenger[saw] of Allah say: "I asked Allah about the differences among my Companions, Allah revealed to me: 'O Muhammad! The status of your Companions with Me is like the stars in the sky. Some are stronger than others. However, everyone of them has light in him. Not withstanding their differences, whosoever follows any of them, he will be a rightly guided person with Me.' He (Hadhrat 'Umar[ra]) also related that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: 'My Companions are like stars; whosoever of them you follow, you will be rightly guided.' "

(Mishkat Kitabal Manaqib Manaqibassahabah, p 554 bahawalah zarrin)

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Book Review

ZARURATUL IMAM (THE NEED FOR THE IMAM) BY THE PROMISED MESSIAH[as]

Mansura Bashir Minhas, Miami, FL

In this concise and eloquent treatise, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, the Promised Messiah[as] delves into the rationale for an *Imam* of the Age, and how it is a dire need of the time. He also elaborates on the *Imam's* characteristics and distinguishing features and confirms how he fulfills these attributes, being the Divinely Guided one. In the end, Hazoor[as] also clarifies the urgency that prompted him to undertake this writing, which was completed in a span of only one and a half day.

Hazoor[as] states that one who doesn't recognize the *Imam* of the Age is likely to remain spiritually ignorant and blinded. He explains that all recipients of Divine revelations are not necessarily *Imams*. He quotes the example of the mother of Moses, who was also a recipient of Divine revelation- which is bestowed upon those who are steadfast and have a close bond with God, yet that doesn't exclude them from the need of an *Imam*. The revelations of such people lack the spiritual knowledge and are mostly personal in nature. Hadhrat Umar[ra] received Divine revelations too, yet he remained humble and never considered himself worthy of, or a partaker in *Imamat*.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad[saw] had foretold about the need of an *Imam* in every century. An *Imam* chosen by God is like the sunshine which lends luminosity and radiates his spirituality, and those who eagerly await him, are ever ready to reap rewards and blessings from his advent. The indifferent or those who disbelieve, however, become estranged and remain in distrust.

The Promised Messiah[as] discusses the hallmarks of an *Imam* whose spiritual training is undertaken by God Almighty. The *Imam* is the Commander-in-Chief of the forces of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[saw] who is destined to lead the victory of Islam. He is abundantly bestowed with the knowledge to reform and present the beauty of Islam.

The distinguishing attributes of an *Imam* are:

- Possesses highest moral standards, strength, perseverance and fortitude to withstand opposition.
- Capable of *Imamat* due to his exemplary spiritual acumen, capability and knowledge. He has an intrinsic eagerness to excel in good deeds and has an innate spiritual strength.
- He has an abundance of knowledge and fosters his quest through prayers. Also blessed with outstanding insight and intuition; has an exceptional ability to mold and strengthen his companions.
- His resolve doesn't falter in the face of trials and calamities.
- Relies upon God alone and beseeches His help in tribulations.
- Recipient of visions and revelations from God. Qur'anic truths and verities are revealed to him.

The Promised Messiah[as] highlights the characteristics of true revelations. He explains that they stem from a feeling of anguish that leads the recipient towards God. These revelations are deeply gratifying and convincing, and possess an aura of grandeur and magnificence. The Divine power of these revelations is transformational. They enhance piety and moral standard and lend a sense of fearlessness to the recipient. True revelations never cease, and continue to bless the receiver. These Divine messages are a constant source of knowledge, both spiritual

and scientific.

Huzoor[as] compares this with other faiths' viewpoint about Divine revelation. By endorsing a seal on revelation, they somehow believe that future generations are deprived of Heavenly revelations. This contradicts logic as man is in constant need of guidance. If we believe in a Living God, it is inconsistent to expect a termination of Divine Revelation. Does that mean that God has changed?

The last argument amply sums up the state of the world today. Given the lack of spiritual enlightenment and the moral derailment of human society at large, many cry out loud for the need for a unifying leader who could lead through these tumultuous times. The impaired belief that revelation has ceased, contradicts such a desire for spiritual guidance. A void in spiritual enlightenment leads people to shed faith and become atheists. For a faith to retain essence and remain alive, revelation is needed.

The Holy Qur'an says:

"Obey Allah, and obey His Messenger and those who are in authority over you". *Al-Nisa (4:60)*

In worldly terms, *Ulul Amr* refers to a king, and in spiritual terms he is the *Imam* of the Age. Hazoor's[as] explanation of this verse cogently addresses a contemporary issue that confronts Muslims- loyalty to homeland and obedience to authority. Some remain ambivalent about their loyalties, just like some resisted the British government in the time of the Promised Messiah[as]. Hazoor[as] urged his followers to remain obedient to the British government as it allows them to practice their faith without obstruction and ensures their safety and freedom of religion, which were even denied by some Muslims rulers of the time due to their cowardice. Hazoor[as] states that those who conspire against the British government demonstrate ingratitude.

Just like a physical ruler, a spiritual *Imam* is a requisite. *Imam* of the age refers to all Prophets, Messengers, *Muhaddatin* and *Mujaddadin.*

Hazoor[as] declares that in light of the characteristics mentioned above, he is the *Imam* of the age. Heavenly signs and other prerequisites point towards and vouch for his *Imamat.* The followers of Islam remain divided and have no consent on the descent/ death of the Messiah. Such disagreements mandate a *Hakam* (Arbitrator) to judge between their differences. Hazoor[as] declares that he is the *Hakam* who has been appointed by God to break the Cross, (in the spiritual sense), and remove the differences.

Hazoor[as] validates the stance of *Imam* Malik[rh], Ibn Hazm[rh] and *Mutazilites* with regard to the death of Jesus[as] and points out that the *Ahle-Sunnah* erroneously await the physical descent of Jesus[as]; they interpret the manner of descent literally, rather it was meant to be a figurative one.

The Promised Messiah[as] challenges those who refute his claim of being a *Hakam,* to come forward and prove otherwise. Hazoor[as] reiterates these signs that have been fulfilled in his person:

- Mastery of Arabic language
- Expounds the truths of the Holy Quran
- Acceptance of prayers, almost thirty thousand
- Knowledge of the unseen

Prophecies of the Holy Prophet[saw] regarding him have also been fulfilled. These include the solar and lunar eclipse in the month of *Ramadhan,* the plague, and the fact that Hazoor[as] had been barred from performing the *Hajj.*

The Promised Messiah[as] proceeds to mention the incident that prompted him to undertake this writing. He states that in September 1898, a friend (whom he believed was innocent and God fearing), had a serious error of judgment. Upon a visit to Hazoor[as], this friend narrated one of his revelations where he said this regarding the

Promised Messiah[as]:

'Why should I pledge *Bai'at* at his hand, it is he who should pledge allegiance to me!'

This remark reflected his ignorance about the real concept of *Imamat* and compelled Hazoor[as] to elaborate on the true doctrine of *Imamat* and the importance of *Bai'at.* One who enters into *Bai'at* undertakes a transaction where he barters himself at the hands of a spiritual guide in exchange for spiritual knowledge, blessings, and to sharpen his insight, thereby fostering a close bond with Allah. Hazoor[as] explores the inadequacy of his friend's interpretation and how he had failed in his comprehension of *Bai'at.* He also notes how the revelation is also riddled with grammatical errors. Devoid of spiritual truth and full of errors, such a revelation is likely to do more harm than good.

The Promised Messiah[as] clarifies that dreams and visions have figurative interpretations. The *Mujaddid* of Sirhind saw in a vision that the Holy Prophet (saw) was given the rank of *Khalilullah* through him. Shah Waliullah also had a vision in which the Holy Prophet[saw] had pledged *Bai'at* at his hand. However, these scholars possessed humility and depth of knowledge, thus refrained from interpreting their visions literally.

Zarurat ul Imam effectively sums up the need of an *Imam.* Its message is of utmost significance and addresses a pertinent contemporary issue. It succinctly sums up the need of an *Imam* and elucidates how the Promised Messiah, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad[as], is the much awaited *Imam* of the Age, and how in his person the characteristics of the *Imam* are evident.

May Allah enable the world to pay heed to the message of this book, and accept and appreciate the blessing of *Imamat* that Allah has already bestowed upon it. For those who have already recognized the *Imam* of the age, may Allah enable them to stay committed and steadfast to their *Bai'at. Ameen.*

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HADITH

Hadhrat Ibn 'Abbas[ra] relates that Musailmah Kadhdhab came to Medina while the Holy Prophet[saw] was alive and began to say: "I will obey Muhammad[saw] if he entrusts sovereignty to me when he passes away. Many people of his tribe were with him. One day, the Holy Prophet[saw] went to see him while Hadhrat Thabit bin Qais bin Shammas[ra] was with him[saw] and a thin stick of a date tree was in his hand. He[saw] stopped by Musailmah who was sitting among his people. He[saw] told him: 'If you ask for this thin stick, I will not give you even this. You will not escape Allah's judgment. If you turn away (from what I say), Allah will destroy you. I have been shown many things concerning your end. This person is Thabit, he will answer your questions (on my behalf).' Then he[sa] left. Hadhrat Ibn 'Abbas[ra] said, 'I asked what was meant by the comment of the Holy Prophet[saw] that I have been shown a lot of things concerning your end?' Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] told me, 'The Holy Prophet[saw] had said, 'Once, I was sleeping and I saw in a dream that I had two gold bangles in my hand. I became a bit worried about these. I was revealed in the dream to blow air on the bangles. When I blew air on the bangles, the bangles disappeared. I interpreted the dream as: After I pass away, there will be two false claimants and liars who will revolt.' " So, (the narrator explains that later on), it became clear that one of them was (Aswad) 'Ansi, of San'a' (Yeman) and the second one was Musailmah (*Kadhdhab*), (who laid the foundation for the revolt in) of *Yamamah.*

(Muslim kitaburruya' babarruya' annabi[sa], p 53/2, Bukhari)

Hadhrat Jabir[ra] relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "The similitude of me and you is like a person who kindles a fire, and moths and similar insects rush to fall into it and he strives to protect them from the fire. Likewise, I hold you from the back to save you from the fire of Hell while you struggle to slip out of my hands."

(Muslim Kitabul Fada'il bab shafqata Sallallahu 'alaihi wassalam 'ala ummatihi)

THE MESSIAH HAS COME

THE PROPHECY OF "THE SECOND COMING OF THE MESSIAH" HAS BEEN FULFILLED

Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser

Hadhrat Ahmad[as], the Messiah of this age, said:

"The Messiah has Come"

The Prophecy of "The Second Coming of the Messiah" has been fulfilled. Hadhrat Ahmad[as], the Messiah of this age, said:

"I am the light of this dark age. He who follows me shall be saved from the pitfalls and ditches which the devil has prepared ... God has sent me to guide the world to Him with peace and forbearance."

These are troubled times. Few places on the planet have avoided disasters in recent years; earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, droughts, wars, ravaged economies, closing businesses, disappearing livelihoods are everyday stories. It is feared that the economic troubles of today are forerunners of global wars of tomorrow. It is no exaggeration to say that these disasters are of biblical proportions.

This appalling situation compels one to ask if there is any path of peace or escape left? Will this situation ever change? Will there ever be peace in the world? Will governments be able to overcome these problems? Will religious leaders uplift moral values of their followers and lead them away from crime? There is only one hope left. Only a heaven sent reformer can resolve this unholy mess with God given powers. Only such a reformer can change men's hearts, instilling brotherly love in their hearts, removing hatred from their hearts, bringing them together on one platform as members of a family. This heaven sent reformer would fulfill all the prophecies about the Second Coming of the Messiah.

Jesus[as] had predicted this situation saying;

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars ... For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes in diverse places" (Matt. 24:6-7).

The Holy Bible also mentioned some other signs related to his coming, like hurricanes; violence and immorality; melting of elements; no faith; distress of nations; heart failing nations; Jews returning to Israel; comet; gathering of people. Furthermore, Christian scholars, because of their research on biblical prophecies, were almost certain that the *Messiah would be coming at the turn of the millennium. Accordingly, the Christian world witnessed heightened expectations as the year 2000 arrived. The media covered many pronouncements about the imminent return of Jesus. Churches prepared their congregations for the Second Coming. Even politicians talked of the great change that the world would witness after Jesus' appearance. People were staring at the skies searching for the descending Messiah. Unfortunately, when no one appeared, people lost faith and many took to ridiculing this belief. Interestingly, the Bible predicts this reaction quite accurately:-*

"Scoffers will come in the last days...saying 'Where is the promise of his coming?" (II Peter 3:3-4)

All these signs and prophecies corresponding with the coming of the Messiah have been fulfilled in the last hundred years and yet Christians are still waiting. Is it possible that the Second Coming happened quietly while most of the world failed to notice? Jesus himself settled this question when he said:

"When you see these things happening, know that it is near at the very door" (Mark 13:29)

"And when these begin to pass, then look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh."

This implies that the Messiah should have been there when these calamities began a century ago. Furthermore, Jesus likened his second coming to that of Noah. Since Noah preceded the flood, the Messiah would have to precede the disasters that are associated with him. As to the manner of his appearance, Jesus said that his coming would be a muted event:

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." (2 Peter 3:10)

He further cautioned:

"Watch therefore: for you know not what hour your Lord doth come ... therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not, the son of man cometh." (Matt. 24:42-44)

Another interesting and very important thing to note is that Jesus denied his own physical return to this world. It is recorded in Matt. 23:39 that he said:

"Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Matt. 23:39)

The Messiah Has Already Come

After receiving Divine revelation, Hadhrat Ahmad[as] claimed to be the long awaited Messiah whose advent was prophesied in the Holy Bible, the Holy Qur'an, and other Divine Religious Scriptures. He proclaimed,

"God has sent me to guide the world towards Him with peace and forbearance."

Through him, God has shown His face to mankind. He came in the spirit and power of Jesus just as John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah (Matt: 11:14) did not physically descend from the heavens as expected by the Jews.

The one who was promised appeared at the appointed time and conveyed the message that was given to him by God. God addressed him, saying:

"I have made thee Messiah, son of Mary. Say: 'I have come in the footsteps of Jesus.' They will answer: 'We have not heard this from our ancestors.' Say: 'God knoweth', and ye know but little. Ye are content with words and the truth is hidden from you."

"I am the light of this dark age. He who follows me shall be saved from the pitfalls and ditches which the devil has prepared ... God has sent me to guide the world to Him with peace and forbearance."

He Loved to Remain in Solitude

"I never had any desire to claim to be the Promised Messiah. I loved to remain in solitude and to be quite unknown to the world. But Divine wisdom ordained it otherwise and God enjoined me to come out of the corner of solitude which I loved."

His Claim

"Ye Christians of Europe and America! And ye all seekers after truth! *Know it for certain that the Messiah who was to come, has come. It is he, who is speaking to you at this moment. Heaven and earth have shown signs and the prophecies of the holy prophets of God have seen their fulfillment. Almighty God has shown through me thousands of signs and furnished arguments on my truth in every way."*

His Divine Mission

"I have been sent to restore Truth and Faith and to restore the love and fear of God in the hearts of men. This alone is the object of my existence.

The Lord of the heaven and the earth has sent me to bring the world back to God and His word. .... Moreover, to preach His word to the nations and to lead them back into His Kingdom; and to bring back those that had become separated from Him. In addition, to give faith to the faithless, eyes to the blind and ears to the deaf; and to heal those whose bodies have been corrupted by leprosy; and to raise the dead; and to awaken those who slumber; and to conciliate those who are disaffected. And to reform those that are corrupted; and to pick those up that are fallen; and to look after those who are helpless; and to open the gates of the Kingdom of heaven unto those that are rejected."

Heavenly Signs Attesting His Coming

"God has provided me with heavenly signs for the satisfaction of seekers after the truth. He has disclosed to me the secret of the unseen and of the future which according to the Holy Scriptures is a sign for a true claimant of divine revelation, and He has vouchsafed to me Holy and pure knowledge."

"Almighty God has shown through me thousands of signs and furnished arguments on my truth in every way."

His Warning and Good News

"He, who forsakes me, forsakes Him (God) Who sent me, and he who joins me, joins Him from Whom I have come."

His Love For Humanity

"I love mankind as dearly as an affectionate mother loves her children – nay, even more."

A Brief Introduction

Ahmad[as] (1835-1908) of Qadian, India, who claimed to be the Messiah of this age, founded the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (AMC) in 1889. AMC now has spread in 195 countries with tens of millions of peace loving, and law-abiding followers. It is a moderate, dynamic, and fast growing community in the world.

Future of His Mission

"I came only to sow the seed and that seed has been sown by my hand. It will now grow and blossom forth and none dare retard its growth."

A grand Prophecy

"O mankind, hearken. This is the prophecy of God who made the heavens and the earth. He will spread this Movement in all the countries and will give it supremacy over all, through reason and argument."

This is the voice of truth. Blessed are those who listen to the voice of truth and seek admission into the Kingdom of Heaven.

He announced,

"Repent, therefore, before that hour arrives and accept him of whom you were told by Jesus, the Messiah, in his first coming, and to whom he calls you in his second. If you do so, I shall testify it of you before the Father and shall declare your righteousness unto Him, and you shall find His pleasure and realize His mercy."

The salvation of the world is attached in recognizing the Messiah of this age, following him with all hearts and souls to come under God's special protection.

"Peace be unto those who follow the truth."

MONTHLY TABLIGH REPORT: PHILADELPHIA JAMA'AT (January 2012)

Tahir Abdullah Hagura
Philadelphia Jama'at Tabligh Secretary

Every Sunday, we have been running a Radio Show from 7PM to 8PM that broadcasts throughout Philadelphia. In the talk show, we talk about various issues including Islam, Christianity, the need for a Reformer, and other Religious and Moral issues. There are generally 4-5 callers per night about the various topics.

Location	Temple University Campus
Total Number of outings this month	4
Total Volunteers this month	45
Number of books sold	21
Number of flyers distributed	3,000
Dollar amount collected	$183.00
One on One Tabligh	15
Number of Revelation, Rationality Knowledge and Truth Books Sold	6
Number of Holy Quran's Sold	3
Additional Comments/Programs	None

Tabligh Trailer Outing

We also have a billboard on 9th and Spring Garden Street in Philadelphia that has a picture of the Promised Messiah[as] on it with "The Messiah has Come" written on it with the Mosque phone number and the *Jama'at* website.

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CORRECTIONS

In the February 2012 issue of the Gazette please read as follows:

1. *Page 17: Read as: "This is the thing that we see not only in these claimants but along with them in those also who have been busy in material research work before them."*
2. *Page 17: Read as "If sources for achieving the objective are known then it is sufficient for him."*
3. *Page 18: Read as: ...but there are a series of examples which continue.*
4. *Read the word "doub" as "doubt".*

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25 GREAT SIGNS ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF THE MESSIAH

Maulana Inamul Haq Kauser

Jesus[as] made it very clear and left no doubts saying:

*"And **when these begin to pass**, then look up and lift up your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh."* (Mark 21:28)

He also said: *"When **you see these things happening**, know that it is near **at the very door**"* (Mark 13:29)

1. Wars Nation against Nation	(Matthew 24: 6-7 and Luke 21: 9-12)
2. Rumors of Wars: (Media)	(Matthew 24: 5-9 and Luke 21: 9-12)
3. Earthquakes	(Matthew 24:7) (Mark 13:8) (Luke 21:11)
4. Pestilence (Plague)	(Matthew 24:7) (Luke 21:11)
5. Famine	(Matthew 24:7) (Mark 13:8) (Luke 21:11)
6. Tribulation	(Mark 13:24)
7. Sea and Waves Roaring (Hurricanes and Tornados)	(Luke 21:25)
8. Violence (Immortality)	(Matthew 19: 28-30)
9. Elements Melt	(Peter 3: 10-12)
10. No Faith	(Luke 18:8)
11. Distress of Nations	(Luke 21: 25-26)
12. Heart Failing Inventions	(Luke 21: 25-26)
13. Moral Permissiveness	(Mark 13:12) (Matthew 19: 28-30) (Timothy 3: 1-5)
14. Eclipse of Sun and Moon	(Mark 13: 24) (Matt 24:29)
15. Falling of Stars	(Luke 21: 25) (Matt 24:29) (Mark 13:25)
16. The Power of Heaven shall be shaken	(Matthew 24: 29) (Mark13:25) (Luke 21:26)
17. Heaven will pass away with Great Noise	(2 Peter 3:10)
18. Fearful Sights	(Luke 21:11)
19. Persecution	(Luke 21:12)
20. Hatred by all Nations	(Matthew 24:9 and Luke 21:17)
21. Coming like a *"Thief in the Night"*	(2 Peter 3:10) (Matthew 24:43)
22. Gospel-Preached to All Nations	(Mark 13:10) (Matthew 24:14)
23. Jews- Going to Israel	(Matthew 10-13) (Luke 21:24)
24. Appearance of the Comet	(Rev 2:28) (Rev 8:10) (Rev 9:1)
25. People will be Gathered (People, Nations, Languages)	(Daniel 7:13-14)

(All Signs have been fulfilled)

THE TESTIMONY OF RENOWNED BRITISH HISTORIAN MR. TOYNBEE REGARDING THE TIMELY FULFILLMENT OF THE DIVINE PROPHECY OF THE FOUNDER OF THE AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Mas'ood Ahmad Dehlvi

Translated by: Arifa Haleem

The founder of the Ahmadiyya movement, the Promised Messiah[as] in 1891 during his stay in Ludhiana, when he was writing his renowned book "*Izala Auham*", narrated his following revelation to some of his companions:

سلطنت برطانیه تا هشت سال

بعد ازاں ایام ضعف و اختلال

It means that the present grandeur of the British Empire will remain at the same culmination for eight years and after this period due to the emerging signs of weakness and depression, the foundation for its decline will be laid. According to the narration by Hadhrat Maulvi Abdullah Sahib Sanauri[ra], though Hazoor[as] expressed it even during his stay in Ludhiana yet this revelation was even before the time of 1891. If it is viewed from this respect then this revelation was related to 1889, 1888 or somewhat before this time. If according to the words of this revelation eight years are added in it then it means that the foundation of the downfall of the British Empire was destined to be laid in 1888, 1889 or very close to these times. Whereas at that time the Promised Messiah[as] did not publish this revelation but as Hadhrat Hafiz Hamid Ali Sahib[ra] had already narrated this revelation to Maulvi Muhammad Hussain Batalvi Sahib so, in those days he published it in his magazine "*Isha'at al-Sunnah*". After this he repeatedly mentioned it in "*Isha'at al Sannah*" with the caption of "*Paishgoee Hasht Sala*" i.e., eight years Prophecy which is also clear from the written speech in the above mentioned newspaper, vol. 13, no. 1-3 on page 3.

In that era in which God Almighty informed Hazoor[as] about it, not a single person was ready to believe that within a short period of eight years' time which passes in a wink of eye, the vast Empire of Great Britain will start declining because at that time the sun of destiny was at the highest point, and the whole world was forced to accept its power. At that time even for the people of the British nation, by keeping in view the vastness of the kingdom and its day by day increasing stability it was difficult for them to imagine their downfall in the near future. How could they even imagine it because at that time every individual of their nation was in ecstasy that now Britain will never face decline and the dawn of every day will only cause a contribution to its additional power, strength, predominance, and governing authority, and not its downfall and deterioration. It looks as if the Promised Messiah[as] was also not imparted detailed knowledge about this matter as to what kind it will be or what is meant by it, or he did not consider it suitable to disclose it. This was the reason when one of his sincere friends, Hadhrat Peer Sirajul Haque Nomani Sahib humbly said to him regarding this revelation that it looks as if it is mentioned here about spiritual and religious power, i.e., after eight years the religious power of British Empire will be weakened and Ahmadiyyat will start to increase and become powerful. The Promised Messiah[as] said, "What is to happen will happen, we cannot say anything before time." (*Tarikh Ahmadiyyat* vol.2 p. 288)

The time went on and apparently in the eyes of the world the signs of decline and depression were not visible in the power of the British Empire so the British nation went on thinking that its predominance will last forever. So in this way about twenty five years passed and then suddenly the World War started which is famous by the

name of World War I. This war continued for four years. When about twenty five years passed then the second World War started and for five or six years it also turned the world upside down. The result of these two wars was that the Great Britain lost its power.

Though it can be said that it did not encounter defeat yet this is a fact that now it was not so powerful as before. So instead of considering Britain as the super power of the world, it was considered a third class power. A few years had not yet passed that in a wink of eye the British Empire started to contract and those vast territories which were under its control started to become independent one by one and even up to now they are constantly becoming independent. Now, when the British Empire has almost collapsed, Europe and even Britain's own historians are compelled to accept this fact that the period to which the Great Britain considered of its full culmination was the period when the actual foundation of its decline was laid. So a renowned philosopher and historian Mr. Arnold J. Toynbee, who due to his vast knowledge was considered a highly revered one, wrote in1947 an article under the title of "The Present Point in History". In this article while analyzing the downfall of the British Empire he also shed light on its causes and factors. At last he came to the conclusion that all those underground internal movements which after fifty years proved to be the harbinger of a horrible storm and due to which, the power of Great Britain dispersed, in reality they had taken their start in 1897.

This article of Mr. Toynbee is included in that collection of his articles which has been published by the name of "Civilization On Trial" and up to now its many editions have been published.

By mentioning in it about the times of 1897, he wrote when the British nation was celebrating the Jubilee of the deceased Queen Victoria, the British nation at that time was fully senseless due to the intoxication of power and authority. It thought that the history of the world has met its end. The time will not take any other turn and it will never happen that the heaven turns its eyes. The British people were lost in the thoughts that after the victory of Waterloo all the confusions related to external affairs have been settled for ever. In the same way they were also of the view that after passing the famous Reform Bill of 1832, their internal affairs had gotten so much stability that there could be no question of their decline. Furthermore after the occurrence of the 1857 event and their overpowering of all India, they were satisfied that now the sun will never set on the British Empire. Everywhere and in every respect they considered themselves, their strength and sovereignty protected from decline.

Mr. Toynbee by presenting a fascinating view of the celebration of the hundred years of Queen Victoria's Jubilee has also shed light in detail on the vain speculations of his nation. So he writes: Those British people who in 1898 on the occasion of Queen Victoria's Jubilee were watching the army of the British Colonies march past in London, very few of them were ready to take the trouble of thinking that at last every rise is bound to be followed by a fall. They were looking at the sun of their destiny shining at the highest point and thought that now it will always stay there. The interesting thing is that they did not think it necessary to give the magical command to the sun to stop at that highest point like Yeshu.

Mr. Toynbee has pointed out in *Sahifa-e-Yeshu'* Chapter 10, verse 12-13 in which it is mentioned that with the command of Yeshu the sun became stationary there and did not set until Bani Israel took revenge from the enemies. Anyhow the author of the tenth chapter of Yeshu's book was aware of this fact that it is unusual for the speed of time to be motionless because it is written that such a day neither came before nor afterwards when in this way God Almighty heard the words of any man . (Yeshu chapter 10 verse 14). But in 1897, the British people in their own favor visualized this imaginative miracle as a settled reality. Whatever they were looking outwardly, according to the history had met its end. (Civilization's own Trial) After this by mentioning the circumstances of 1947, when the signs of downfall were fully evident, he further writes about the last fifty years' wrong speculations of the British nation.

"In the light of the historical circumstances of 1947, when we put a glance at the past fifty years then these wrong speculations of the middle class of the British nation look absolutely like madness and lunacy." (Page 18)

Further Mr. Toynbee by analyzing the temperament and culture of the Western nations, has shed light on this common mental confusion and

dissatisfaction which due to this culture took birth among the middle class of many European nations and which at last proved to be a cause of the downfall of the British Empire. Related to this he has written something more, that this mental confusion and dissatisfaction started in 1897 behind the scene and began to effect the worldly affairs. Its result was that history further took a big turn and made the world practically realize that every rise has a fall. So he writes:

"Apparently those invisible underground movements to which a diagnostic social expert of internal confusion in 1897 could feel by giving ear to the land, are the real cause of these earthquakes, storms and the eruptions and blasts of volcanos which in the period of the last fifty years have moved the cruel mill of history or it has pointed out to move Jugan Nath's blind Rath (carriage) (Page 20) (Here it means the carriage belonged to Jugan Nath, the god of the Hindus, and the people used to kill themselves by throwing themselves blindly in front of it.)"

This acceptance by a great historian and philosopher like Mr. Toynbee that those factors which during fifty years became the cause of the downfall of the British and other European nations, they in fact had already taken birth in 1897 and they were magnificently manifesting the above mentioned truth of the revelation of the Promised Messiah[as].

In 1889 or around about this time God Almighty informed the founder of *Jama'at Ahmadiyya* through His special revelation about the decline of the British Empire within the period of eight years. At that time the British nation was completely in a state of ecstasy due to their power and authority. Even the rest of the world was not ready to imagine its downfall do early. Perhaps even the founder of *Jama'at Ahmadiyya* was not given detailed knowledge about what was meant by this beginning of the decline. Moreover Maulvi Muhammad Hussain Sahib Batalvi, by publishing the Promised Messiah's[as] revelation in his magazine tried to instigate the government against him. All this happened but God Almighty kept it's timely and real discloser behind the veil of secrecy for fifty years. At last when the signs of the decline of the British Empire started to show clearly then not anyone else but the highly renowned historian of the British nation himself cried out by analyzing the circumstances that in reality the foundation of the decline of Britain had already been laid in 1897. By accepting this he put his seal of certification on this fact that heaven and earth can move from their place but the utterances of God can never be evaded. Whatever God Almighty spoke to the Messiah and the Messiah narrated to the world was true.

سلطنت برطانیه تا هشت سال

بعد ازاں ایام ضعف و اختلال

Who can deny that the above mentioned acceptance of Mr. Toynbee which has been revealing the truth of the founder of the *Jama,at Ahmadiyya* like a bright day and it is self-explanatory by saying:

قدرت سے اپنی ذات کا دیتا ہے حق ثبوت
اس بے نشاں کی چہرہ نمائی یہی تو ہے
جس بات کو کہے کہ کروں گا یہ میں ضرور
لیتی نہیں وہ بات خدائی یہی تو ہے
(درثمین)

The meaning of these verses is:

"The Eternal Truth is self-explanatory by the signs of nature. This Truth exists and is proved by the visible and invisible signs of each and every thing of the universe. This is how the Unknown is known. Whenever He is determined to do something, that thing happens and no one can stop it. Whatever is determined to happen, that happens and this is the Power and Will of God and this is how He rules".

(Daily Alfazl January 2nd 1960)

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HADITH

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "In the Latter Days, certain Antichrists will appear who will spread religion through power and money. They will appear in the world clad in sheep's skin and their talk will be sweeter than honey. However, their hearts will be like hearts of the wolves. Allah the most Honored and Glorious says: 'Did they misunderstand Me or have they (intentionally) challenged Me to the extent that (now) I swear that I will raise amongst them and from within them such mischief-makers that the wise people will be astonished and amazed.' "

(Kanzul 'Ummal kitabul qiyamah minal qismul awwal, p 174/7 matbu'a Haidrabad Daccan)

SIMILARITIES BETWEEN JESUS[as] AND AHMAD[as]

A. Abdul Aziz

The prophecy of the advent of the Messiah, son of Mary in the later days found in the traditions (sayings of the Holy Prophet of Islam[saw]) is interpreted as the coming of a person similar to Jesus Christ[as], in his character and qualities. It has been proved when we go though those traditions that the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in Islam Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian[as] (1835 – 1908) was sent as the second advent of Jesus in accordance with the prophecies of the Bible and other scriptures.

Jesus[as] appeared looking up at the Ivory Towers of the Roman Empire, and Hadhrat Ahmad[as] appeared in India, a country under British rule at the time. Winston Churchill himself admitted that the British Empire was nothing more than an extension of the Roman Empire. The Muslims of India, compared to the British Empire, were an insignificant as the Jews were to the Roman Empire when the first Messiah (Jesus Christ[as]) appeared.

It was at this time that a clash occurred between Jesus and the Jewish clergy. In an attempt to defeat the Messiah, the Jews brought false charges against Jesus to the Roman Courts and demanded that he be persecuted. They alleged that he was not loyal to the government, and was attempting to establish himself as King. Similarly an attempt was made to defeat the second Messiah, Hadhrat Ahmad[as]. Yet, he was pardoned and saved by a British judge, as was Jesus by the Roman Governor General, Pontius Pilate.

[Note: Pilate tried to acquit Jesus by different appeasements and appeals, finding in him no cause for prosecution, but eventually Pilate succumbed to the pressure from the Jews to have him crucified, but he famously "washed his hands" of the blood of this innocent man he wanted to save from the Jewish mob.]

Moreover, the Holy Prophet Muhammad[saw], prophesied through inference, that the Latter Day Messiah was to appear at the head of Islam's 14th Century. Jesus came at the beginning of the 14th Century after Moses, and the founder of the Ahmadiyya Community (*Jama'at*) in Islam, Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad[as] appeared at the beginning of Islam's 14th century.

[Note: This time period – mid-to-late 19th century of the Christian era – also corresponds to the expected Second Coming of Jesus. This is precisely when, in anticipation of the return of Christ, the Rapture Movements began (Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Seventh Day Adventists, et al.) But, as Jesus[as] himself said, it would be a metaphorical Second Coming just as John the Baptist was the "Second Coming" of Elijah, and that he would come like "a thief in the night," going largely unnoticed or accepted.]

Jesus[as] claimed that he had not come to change the law. "Think not that I have come to change the law or the prophets." (Math. 5:17) Similarly, Hadhat Ahmad[as] came not to change the law (*Shariah*) of Muhammad[saw], but to complete it in essence and practice.

The Holy Prophet Muhammad[saw] also predicted that his people in the days of the Messiah would be in the same condition as the Jews were at the time of the coming of their Messiah. He said the similarity will be as complete as the similarity between one's right and left shoes. The Muslims would suffer from the same diseases and hardened hearts as did the Jews at the time of Jesus[as]. Thus, if they were to suffer from the same diseases, the remedy must be the same, a Messiah. A Messiah must appear to bring them back from rituals to spirituality, from aggression to defenseless sacrifice.

Following are the similarities between Jesus, son of Mary[as] and the Promised Messiah[as] of the Latter Days as stated by the Promised Messiah Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad[as] in his book "The Narrative of Two Martyrdoms" (*Tazkarat-ush-shadatain*. Roohani Khazain, vol.20, pp-30-35). However, the title of each similarity is inserted for the convenience of readers.

From the religious point of view, there are sixteen characteristics in the life of Jesus which must be found in the last successor of the Islamic dispensation, so that perfect accord may be proved between him and Jesus[as].

Both are Promised Ones

The first similarity between the last two successors in the two dispensations is that the advent of both of them had been predicted. In Islam there have been thousands of saints, yet none of them had come as the 'Promised-One'. But he who came as the 'Like-of-Jesus' was, no doubt, the Promised Messiah. Similarly, no other Prophet but Prophet Jesus[as] was the Messiah promised for the Jews.

Their People had No Political Power

The second similarity is the loss of independence and political power. There is no doubt that the Muslims in India, like the Jews prior to the birth of Jesus, had lost their independence on account of their many wicked ways. The British had been firmly established in India before the birth of the Messiah of the later days.

Sectarianism Prevailed During Their Times

The third similarity is that at the time of the advent of the first Messiah, the Jews had become divided into several sects and, therefore, stood in need of an arbiter for them. In the same way the Muslims, at the advent of the last Messiah, are divided into many sects.

Both Postponed Religious Wars

The fourth point is that the first Messiah was not commanded to wage wars for the sake of faith. In the same way, the last Messiah has not been commanded to take up the sword.

Religious Scholars in their times were morally bankrupt:

The fifth point worth considering is that during the ministry of the first Messiah, the Jews had become morally bankrupt: especially those of the priestly class had become exceedingly greedy and corrupt. Jealousy and avarice prevailed over the whole nation and everyone hankered after material gains all the time. In the same way, the people of our time, the time of the Promised Messiah, especially Muslim priests and Mullahs have gone mad after worldly pursuits. This is a patent fact which needs no further elucidation.

Foreign Rule in Their Times

The sixth point of similarity is that Jews appeared during the reign of a Caesar – a foreign ruler. The Promised Messiah[as] of Islam also shares this characteristic. He also lives under the rule of a foreign emperor who is far superior to the one that ruled during the time of the Messiah of the Jews...

Their Faith Ultimately Accepted by Foreign Rulers

The seventh point in this connection is that the Christian faith eventually succeeded in winning over the Romans. In this respect there is a similarity with my time also, because I find that people in Europe and America are showing considerable interest in my claim and the way of my reasoning. They have, of their own accord, published my claim in hundreds of newspapers with favorable comments which could hardly be expected from the pens of Christians. Some of these have gone so far as to express the view that my claim would be genuine, while some of them have declared that belief in Jesus as God was totally wrong, some others have written that my claim of being the Promised Messiah is timely and feel that the present time is greatly in my favor. In short, it appears that these people are preparing themselves to accept my claim and Christianity shall, day by day, melt away like snow.

Polar Star Appeared in Their Times

Another characteristic of Jesus was that a certain star had appeared at the time of his advent. This characteristic is equally shared by me because the very same star that had appeared in his time has again appeared in my time also. This is what has been verified in the English newspapers from which it could be concluded that the time is now ripe for the second advent of the Promised Messiah.

Solar and Lunar Eclipses Occurred in Their Times

The ninth characteristic of Jesus was the eclipse of the sun that was seen when he was crucified on the cross. I also share this characteristic. When people rejected my claim, God manifested His sign in my support not only causing the sun to eclipse but also caused the eclipse of the moon. Both these signs occurred during the month of *Ramadhan*. This did not only happen once but occurred twice as is mentioned in the traditions. These two eclipses are mentioned in the Gospels as well as in the

Holy Qur'an. This prediction is also mentioned in *Dar Qutni*, an authentic book of the Sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings of Allah be upon him.

Occurrence of Epidemic of Plague in Their Times

The tenth characteristic common between us is the occurrence of the epidemic of plague. Because of the persecutions of the Jews, it became rampant in the time of Jesus and for the same reason it has spread in my time as well.

Both Were Falsely Charged With Criminal Cases

The eleventh characteristic common to both of us is that the divines and the Elders left no stone unturned in denouncing Jesus as a hard-core renegade for which reason a false case was framed against him and he was taken to the court hoping that he would be condemned there to death. An identical case was also fabricated against me of conspiracy to murder. An effort was also made to prove me a rebel against the Government. This was the case in which Maulvi Abu Saeed Muhammad Hussain of Batala appeared as a witness against me.

Thieves Were Prosecuted Along With Both of Them

The twelfth point is that a robber was also hanged on the cross along with Jesus[as]; on the day I was acquitted of the false charge of conspiracy to murder, regarding which I had informed in advance hundreds of men on the basis of revelation, a Christian was also brought before the same magistrate. He was a member of the Salvation Army and had misappropriated some money. He was given three months imprisonment. He was not sentenced to death like the robber who was hanged along the side of Jesus and died.

Both Were Declared 'Not Guilty'

The thirteenth resemblance between Jesus and me is that when Jesus was brought before the Governor and was prosecuted for capital punishment, the Governor declared that he could not see any fault in the accused. Similarly, Captain Douglas, the District Magistrate, on my asking him a question, had replied that he was not accusing me of any guilt.

In my opinion, Captain Douglas outshines Pilate in imparting judgment fearlessly and in showing determination and steadfastness. But in the end Pilate showed diffidence and for fear of the High Priest and the Elders, acted in a cowardly manner. But Captain Douglas showed no sign of weakness.

Both Were Born in 14th Century

The fourteenth resemblance was that since Jesus had no father, he was, strictly speaking, not an Israelite. Despite this drawback, he was the last Prophet for the Children of Israel and of the Mosaic dispensation. He was born in the fourteenth century after Moses[as]. In the same way I do not belong to the *Quraish* and have been raised in the fourteenth century of Islam and, like Jesus[as], I am the Promised Messiah of the Muslims.

Social Infrastructure Improved in Their Times

The fifteenth characteristic is that by the time Jesus appeared great strides had been made in the progress of civilization. Good roads had begun to be constructed; an efficient defense system had come into being and very many improvements had been made in the organization and training of the armies. Means of travel were vastly improved and to ensure the comfort of travelers' rest-houses had become common. Also the judiciary had been reformed. Similarly, there has been much progress and outstanding developments in our time in these fields. For example, a new means of travel, the railways, has been invented, the prediction for which is found in the Holy Qur'an and the reader can easily call to mind various other inventions.

Both Are Similar to Adam

The sixteenth characteristic of Jesus was that, being born without a father, he was like Adam. Similarly, I have a resemblance of a sort with him: according to what Mohiyyud Deen Ibni 'Arabi has mentioned about the Final Successor to be of Mongol origin and to be born the second of twins, a girl being born first, I was born on a Friday. It is not known how Ibni Arabi got hold of this Sign, but it has come to pass.

These are the sixteen similarities between me and Jesus. They show that the hand of God was working in all of this phenomenon. If it had been a man-made project so many similarities between Jesus and me could not have been found. denying Prophets is an old established response of the unfortunate ones, but the leaders of religion of our time deny me in rather a strange manner.

(Tazkarat-ush-Shadatain, Ruhani

Khaza'in, vol.20, pp-30-35)

Responses to "Similarities Between Jesus[as] and Ahmad[as]"

Nesta Says: January 15th, 2012 at 9:23 am

When I took this article to a priest and asked few questions based on the information provided in this article, unfortunately, he was unable to answer for my questions such as What happened to our Jesus, whether he is still in heaven and will be back or not. If any one clarify to me, I will be grateful to them.

Ibnu Ahmad Says: January 15th, 2012 at 6:52 pm

@Nesta,

As you experienced, no one can dare to reply against the truth. In reality, the doctrine of Christianity is still surviving on the false belief that Jesus died on the cross to redeem mankind. Moreover, he ascended to sky and will be back – this is an additional belief by them to boost themselves. For the last two thousand years they wait for their savior to return back to earth. Generation after generation people were in despair and died in accordance with the natural law to which Jesus also cannot be exempted. Nesta, if you are blessed to live long one thousand years, you also will not see Jesus , son of Mary will descend from heaven. O.K.

According to himself Jesus Christ was a prophet raised among Israel particularly for the guidance of the "lost sheep of the house of Israel." Were it true that he was very God Himself and that the sole purpose of his sojourn upon earth was to expiate mankind's sins upon the cross he would not have prayed in agony and asked his disciples to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane that, if possible, the cup (of death upon the cross) may be turned away. Jesus believed that God heard his prayers. He must have believed that this prayer would also be heard. If the whole purpose of his advent was to atone for the sins of mankind through his death upon the cross, why this agonized prayer to be spared such a death? This prayer was a complete denial of this whole alleged purpose of his advent.

He must have received divine assurance of deliverance in answer to his prayer. For, when, as a mortal being he perceived upon the cross that all apparent changes of his being delivered from his humiliating and agonizing demise upon the cross had disappeared he was afflicted with the apprehension lest some default on his part should have defeated the divine purpose of deliverance of which he had received assurance after his earnest prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. This brought on fresh agony and he cried out 'My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" if the death of Jesus upon the cross was the fulfillment of the very purpose for which he had been sent among mankind, the realization that death was now creeping upon him and that he was fast slipping into unconsciousness, should have filled him which a few hours that purpose would be completely achieved. Had that been so, his cry, instead of being one of agony and almost despair, would have been a shout of exaltation. He would have proclaimed, "Oh glory! Oh glory! The purpose is fulfilled. Mankind is redeemed through me," instead of crying in anguish. "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me."

Had he died upon the cross and come back to life again he would have proceeded to the highest vantage point in Jerusalem and proclaimed his triumph over death to the unbelieving Jews. Putting forward this irrefutable proof of his being the son of God he would have invited them to believe in him as such. He did not do this. Instead, he met the disciples a few times to convince them of the fact that he had not died upon the cross, had not become "accursed" and was still alive in his physical body. He charged the disciples not to spread this news about and he took precautions to meet then only in secret." There is not a single instance on record of any contemporary Jew or gentile having believed in him because he had died and had come to life, and yet had that been the cause what grater miracle could anybody have desired to see? All this completely contradicts the assertion that death upon the cross was the very purpose of the advent and that purpose had been fulfilled.

Jesus[as] himself never taught this. He insisted that the way to salvation was through keeping "the Law and the Prophets." Which Law? Obviously, the Mosaic Law. Which Prophets? Clearly, the Prophets who had succeeded Moses in Israel. He reiterated that he had not come to destroy the Law but to fulfill it. "Heaven and earth shall pass away

but not one jot or tittle of the Law shall pass away." He exhorted his disciples and followers to do what the Scribes and Pharisees told them to do, for they sat in Moses' seat and were thus the authorized and traditional interpreters of the Law of Moses, though he warned against imitation of their deeds "for they say and do not".

The whole body of doctrine based upon the "Law being accursed and salvation being possible only through atonement is a latter innovation and finds no support whatever in anything that Jesus said or did. It is asserted that he described himself as the son of God, but this was clearly metaphorical use of the expression common in the sacred scriptures. When charged with this, he explained that even his accusers (who did not believe in him) were also the sons of God When the Jews threatened that they would stone Jesus because he, being a man, made himself a god, he answered:

"Is it not written in your law, I said, ye are gods?"

The Bible describes Israel (Jacob) as God's son, even the "first-born." The peace makers are described as the 'children of God" in the Bible.

In the Lords prayer God is addressed by the faithful as Father, the faithful being thus the sons of God. The Bible has frequently used this expression metaphorically to describe the chosen of God, the righteous people, and even the whole of mankind.
Jesus had announced that his "wicked and adulterous" generation would be given no sign except the sign of the Prophet Jonah. It is worth remembering that Jonah entered the belly of the whale alive, remained there alive, though unconscious, and emerged therefrom alive. So was Jesus taken down from the cross alive though unconscious, he remained in the sepulcher alive and emerged therefrom alive. Had he died upon the cross there would have been no resemblance between his case and that of the Prophet Jonah, unless one were also to believe that Jonah too had died in the belly of the whale and had come back to life after he emerged therefrom, a theory which would scarcely be acceptable to the Church.

It is significant that the text of the 1947 Revised Standard Version of the New Testament published by Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York, makes no mention of the bodily ascension of Jesus[as] to heaven.

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HADITH

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] relates that the Holy Prophet[saw] said: "The Prophets are related to one another like step-brothers, having the same father but different mothers. Among the people, I am most close to Jesus[as], son of Mary. This is so, because there is no Prophet between him and me. When you see him, recognize him from his appearance. He is certainly going to descend. When you see him, recognize him from his appearance. He will be of average height, with straight reddish-blond hair from which water will appear to be dripping, even without moistening the hair. He will break the cross, kill the swine, and will end the poll-tax. During his age, Allah will make all other religions other than Islam extinct with respect to their spirituality and worldly power and might, and will kill the false Antichrist. This will be such a peaceful time that animals will graze together: a camel with a lion, a leopard with cows, and a wolf with goats. Young and older children will play with snakes; no one will harm the other. Thus, with the command of Allah as long as He wishes the Messiah to live in the world, he will live and then will die. Muslims will offer his funeral Prayer and take part in his burial."

(Abu Dawud kitabal malaham bab khurujaddajjal, p 594, Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal, p 437/2)

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PAY ZAKAT

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WOMEN'S ROLE IN RAISING CHILDREN: TEACHINGS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH[as] AND KHULAFA

Saadia Ahmad

As women and mothers, we are raising our children in a society in which 89 percent of teens who are ages 13 to18 years old reported being in a dating relationship. Many children first try alcohol during their teenage years. The average age for girls to try alcohol is 13-years. Alcohol is the drug most often used by 12- to 17-year-olds, with more than four million adolescents drinking alcohol in any given month. About 20% of high school seniors used marijuana in the past 30 days, while 19.2 percent smoked cigarettes.

According to the U.S.: National Center for Health Statistics, 43 percent of teens are 'sexually experienced'. Of all the high schoolers surveyed, 14% had had sex with four or more people during their life. In 2009, a total of 409,840 infants were born to 15–19 year olds. The U.S. teen pregnancy and birth, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), and abortion rates are substantially higher than those of other western industrialized nations. Add to these stats the pervasive influence of video games, ipods and television and the constant exposure to social media and it almost seems impossible to raise moral children. But as the *Jama'at* of the Promised Messiah, he gave us the assurance that:

'This world can cause you no harm if your connection with the hereafter is strong'.

(Kashti-e-Nooh, P. 15)

Dear sisters, raising moral children in this society is a daunting task. I will share with you some guidelines given to us by the Promised Messiah[as] and the *Khulafa* to save our children from the ill influences of this society and raise them as individuals who have a higher purpose in life.

I will start with the practice of the Promised Messiah[as] and his beloved wife, Hadhrat Nusrat Jehan Begum Sahiba[ra]. In the book biography of Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] it is narrated that Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] practiced the following four principals in raising children.

The first thing that Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] would teach children is to hate lying. Since early childhood she would repeatedly stress the importance of saying the truth. She said that lying is shirk. No matter what the child has done or whatever the consequences, teach the child to not try to escape by lying.

The second principal that Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] always practiced was trusting her children. She used to say that a child should know that his parents trust him explicitly. This breeds self-confidence and self-respect in them and enhances their self-worth and self-image. They believe that their parents believe in them so why would the world not believe in them?

The Promised Messiah[as] never looked at his children with suspicion or distrust. He believed in his children and often expressed his trust in them. As a result, his children had such a high regard for this trust that they never wanted to do anything to betray his confidence or hide anything from him. He always listened very attentively to his children as if a very important person is conversing. He admonished against constantly monitoring children. The Promised Messaih[as] used to say to tell children the boundaries and be aware of their activities but help them to develop an internal guard by trusting them. If you see something that needs to be corrected, then talk to them privately. Admonishing them in public makes them obstinate.

Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] would always inculcate the habit of obedience in her children. She says that if children have this habit then all training issues can be resolved and if this habit gets strong in childhood, it stays with them all their life. Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] further elaborates that don't constantly ask children to do things but once you ask them make sure that they do listen to you. This inculcates the habit of obedience. Then she said ***Laikin har waqat tang na karo'*** But do not

bother them all the time.

The most important tool that Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] employed in the training of children was *dua*. She would highly stress on prayers. Hadhrat Masih Maood's[as] life revolved around *dua* and Hadhrat Amma Jaan[ra] had learned this from him. She would pray day and night. Her grandchildren mention that whenever they passed her courtyard in their childhood her glance would be a personification of prayer. Whenever she would eat, she would put some food in their mouths also and then pray, ***Allah naik Naseby karay,*** May Allah bless you.

In regards to prayer the Promised Messiah[as] has said:

I wish that, instead of punishing children, parents would have recourse to prayer, and should make it a habit to supplicate earnestly for their children; for the supplications of parents on behalf of their children meet with special acceptance.

[Malfoozat, vol. 2, p. 4]

Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] also used to say to make huge effort on the moral training of the oldest child. If you are successful then you will not have to do as much effort with the younger ones. They will automatically follow the example of the oldest child.

The role of women in raising children is so profound that our *Khulafa* have given many sermons and many speeches on this topic. In his book 'The Way of the Seekers', Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood[ra] says:

A child is at the mercy of his parents. He absorbs what he hears them say and does what he sees them do. The child is a great imitator. If the parents do not set before him a proper model to copy, he will go elsewhere to find a model, which he can copy. Let Ahmadi parents take note. If you want your children to grow into good adults, then use your home as a kind of segregation camp. Keep children away from everything except good influences. This is the only way to safeguard the future generations.

Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood[ra] has given parents many guidelines in raising of children, As children grow older he says:

"Parents should choose well-behaved children as associates for their children. The parents too will benefit from this arrangement. They will come to know the parents of other children whom they have chosen as associates for their child. It will lead to a kind of inter-parent cooperation. Also when they choose playmates for their child, they will watch over their behavior."

Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood[ra] further elaborates that The Holy Prophet[saws] has said:

"Do not curse a child for when you curse, angels add: Let it be like that; and like that he becomes."

When you tell a child it is bad, it draws an imaginary picture in which it figures itself out as bad and does in fact become bad. Therefore, do not abuse a child. Praise it and teach it to be good.

In the compilation of sermons of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV[rh], "Daughters of Eve", he has outlined the role of women in raising children with a great deal of detail. We are all familiar with the saying of the Holy Prophet[saw] that Paradise lies under the feet of mothers. Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV[rh] says that:

"Paradise can be attained by children only through mothers who have themselves become a heavenly sign and who strive to attain heaven in this world. Your progeny cannot change without you changing. Unless your personality is filled with the light of God, your children's bosoms will not be filled with that light."

He further elaborates that :

"The love that comprises only of devotion and is lacking any vestige of discipline, and expectations and requirements of balance will harm children instead of benefitting them. A mother who from an early age not only gives love to her children but also instills justice and balance in them is actually creating a paradise for future. The best heritage that a mother can pass on to her child is the fear of Allah. Love of Allah and the fear of losing it is called Taqwa that the mothers can bestow on their children. Pay attention to these matters and this should be done in early childhood. Prayers are accepted more when the mother has a deep desire to keep them devout. If you have true eagerness in your hearts then children of such mother will never go waste."

Explaining the reasons for ills in the society he says that:

"Frequent rudeness at home becomes responsible for most evils in our society."

My dear sisters, our children perceive the society and community around them through our filters and our language has a profound effect on

how they perceive situations and people.

In his Friday sermon of June 27th Hazoor[aba] stressed the importance of creating a peaceful and loving environment at home for the children and said that the parents have to make sacrifices in order to ensure that their children are brought up in the right environment. In particular Hazoor[aba] stressed the absolute necessity of ensuring that no negative comments are mentioned about the *Jama'at* in the household, Hazoor[aba] said that if there is a genuine complaint one should go through the proper channel and refrain from making injurious comments in the family environment. Hazoor[aba] explained that unless the parents present a good model themselves children would never abide by them if their deeds and words were not in harmony.

I will end my speech with the simple and profound guidance given to us by the Promised Messiah[as]. He says:

"True guidance and training belongs to God Almighty. To pursue a matter persistently and to insist upon it unduly and to rebuke children upon every matter indicates that such a person imagines himself to be the source of guidance and believes that he will bring the children to order by pursuing his own method. This kind of attitude savors of a hidden assumption of association with the Divine and should be avoided by the members of our community. I pray for my children and require them to follow a broad set of rules of behavior and no more. Beyond this I put my full trust in Allah Almighty in the confidence that the seed of good morals inherent in each of them will flower at its proper time."

May Allah enable us to be mothers who have paradise under their feet and make our children abundant with the seeds of good morals.

THE LOT OF THE WRETCHED POOR

Sayyarah Chowdhry

My soul is in bruises and bristles.
My whole body in pain and aches.
As if I have walked on the naked shingles.
News- people are committing suicides.
Oh; my God; life is too dear too precious;
Cause could not feed too many hungry mouths...
Could not pay bills, could not marry off daughters with dowries.
I suffered from a gnawing sense of guilt.
Just benumbed, I felt just paralyzed.
They are selling their children, they are less fortunate.
Have you ever known hunger pangs?
These starved children with their bulging bellies.
Blank eyes and soulless expression.
What do they know of life? It's meaning its purpose;
Life to them is an empty dream with no rude awakening;
A road which leads nowhere- just a mirage;
It is no wonderland, no rosy paths no milky ways.
No peacocks, no waterfalls, no shades of lush green trees
No gold-saddled-horses, no silvery-dawn
No butterflies to dance, no star-dust to tread upon.
No toys, but mud and dirt, no dresses but tatters
Battered, beaten in spirits, they go to bed starved.
God – above looks in silence –man's injustice to man
Mockery of the situation.

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HADITH

Hadhrat 'A'ishah[ra] relates that during the illness in which he (the Holy Prophet[saw]) passed away, he[sa] said to Hadhrat Fatimah[ra]: "Each year, Gabriel used to rehearse the recitation of the Holy Qur'an once. However, this year he has rehearsed the recitation of the Holy Qur'an twice and has informed me that each Prophet had lived half of the age of the preceding Prophet; and has informed me that Jesus[as] son of Mary had lived for one hundred twenty years, therefore, I don't see (anything else) except that I will leave this world close to sixty."

(Al-Muwahib aladdunyah Imam Qastalani, Vol. I, p 42, sharahal muwahib aladdunyah by 'Allamah Muhammad 'Abdul Ba-qi Maliki, Vol. 1, p 42)

TRADITIONS RELATING TO COMING OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH AND MAHDI[as]

Hadhrat Malik Saifur Rahman
Ex-Mufti Silsila and Principal Jamia Ahmadiyya

Translated by: Karimullah Zirvi

Death of Jesus[as]

Hadith #1

Hadhrat Ibn 'Abbas[ra] relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "Your resurrection will be as a bare-footed and naked being, as if you have not yet been circumcised." Then he[sa] recited the following:

كَمَا بَدَأْنَآ أَوَّلَ خَلْقٍ نُّعِيْدُهٗ ؕ وَعْدًا عَلَيْنَا ؕ

إِنَّا كُنَّا فٰعِلِيْنَ ۝

As We began the first creation, so shall We repeat it -- a promise binding upon Us; We shall certainly perform it. (21:105)

The first one to be dressed will be Hadhrat Ibrahim[as]. Then some people from among my Companions will be given the record of deeds in their right hand and the others in their left hand. Those who receive the record of deeds in their left hand, regarding them I will say: 'These are my Companions; these are my Companions.' It will be said: 'They had turned their backs on your teachings since you departed from them.' So I will say as was said by the pious servant of Allah, Jesus[as]:

وَ كُنْتُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيْدًا مَّا دُمْتُ فِيْهِمْ فَلَمَّا

تَوَفَّيْتَنِيْ كُنْتَ أَنْتَ الرَّقِيْبَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَ أَنْتَ

عَلٰى كُلِّ شَيْءٍ شَهِيْدٌ ۝ إِنْ تُعَذِّبْهُمْ فَإِنَّهُمْ

عِبَادُكَ وَ إِنْ تَغْفِرْ لَهُمْ فَإِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَزِيْزُ

الْحَكِيْمُ ۔

And I was a witness over them as long as I remained among them, but since Thou didst cause me to die, Thou hast been the Watcher over them; and Thou art Witness over all things. "If Thou punish them, they are Thy servants; and if Thou forgive them, Thou surely art the Mighty, the Wise." (5:118-119)

(Bukhari kitabul anbiya' bab qaulallah wadhkur filkitab Maryam idhantabadhat min ahliha)

Hadith #2

Hadhrat 'A'ishah[ra] relates that she often heard the Messenger[sa] of Allah say that each Prophet lived half the age of the preceding Prophet. Jesus[as] son of Mary had lived for one hundred and twenty years, therefore, I don't see except that I will leave this world close to sixty." It happened also exactly as he had said. Another fact is that Jesus[as], son of Mary, lived among Bani Israel for forty years.

(Kashful ghamah kitabal aman wassulh bab qasm alfi walghanimah, p 317/2)

Hadith #3

The saying that Jesus[as] was exalted at the age of thirty-three years is the belief of the Christians. According to the tradition of the Holy Prophet[sa], Jesus[as] lived for one hundred and twenty years.

(Zarqani, Vol. 5, p 421)

Hadith #4

(It is related that the Holy Prophet[sa] said): "Had Moses[as] and Jesus[as] been alive, they would have no alternative other than to follow me."

(Al-yawaqi waljawahar comiled by Imam Shirani, p 20/2, Tafsir Ibni Kathir bar hashiyyah tafsir fatahulbiyan, p 246/2)

COMMENTRY

i. It is clear from the Traditions given above (*Haditn* #1-4) that Jesus[as], the Prophet of the Bani Israel, lived for one hundred twenty years and then died. This is the belief of Hadhrat Ibn 'Abbas[ra], Hadhrat Imam Malik[rh], Hadhrat Imam Ibn Hazm[rh], and some other learned men who also believe that Jesus[as] has died.

The one who dies will not be raised before the Day of Judgment. So the obvious meaning of this is that the *Ibni Maryam* (Son of Maryam) promised to come does not mean Jesus himself in person, rather someone like him, one identical to Jesus[as] with respect to his qualities and duties. This is why he will take his name and will be known as the Promised Messiah. Imam Sirajuddin also has written on page 214 of his book, *Kharidatul 'Aja'ib*, that the Promised One to come will not be Jesus[as]. Rather, he will be someone

who is identical to and a reflection of Jesus[as]. Shaikh Muhiyyuddin Ibn 'Arabi[rh] also has written the same. (see footnote of *Hadith* #6

Note:

See Ahadith numbers 6, 7 and 8 also as a collective look at all of these indicates that the physical description given in the Ahadith about Jesus[as] son of Mary, the Prophet of the children of Israel and the Promised Messiah of the Latter Days are not identical, therefore, their personalities will have to be different from each other as two different physical appearances of one single person are impossible.

ii.

Hadith # 5

"Hadhrat Nawas bin Sam'an[ra] relates that one morning, the Messenger[sa] of Allah talked about the Antichrist. Sometimes he talked in a low tone and sometimes in a loud voice and we thought that the Antichrist was present in some close by date-palm garden. When we returned to him in the evening, he perceived our anxiety and asked us, "What are you worried about? We said: 'O Messenger[saw] of Allah! This morning, you talked about the Antichrist and belittled him and then you represented him as a very huge thing. So we thought that he might be present in one of the date-palm gardens.' He said: 'It was something besides the Antichrist that had frightened me regarding you. Should he appear while I am among you I would be your defender against him, but should he appear when I am not among you then everyone must look after himself. However, Allah will be the guardian over every Muslim in my place. He (*Dajjal*) will be a youth not tall, with a bulging out eye. I find him resembling with 'Abdul-Uzza- bin Qatan. He who encounters him from among you should recite to him the opening verses of *Surah Al-Kahf* (Chapter 18). He will appear between Iraq and Syria; so he will turn to the right and the left. O servants of Allah, you should remain steadfast. We asked him: 'O Messenger[saw] of Allah! How long will be his stay in the earth?' He answered: 'Forty days. One of his days will be like a year, (other) one day will be like a month, one (other) day will be like a week and the rest of his days will be like your average days.' We asked: 'O Messenger[saw] of Allah, the day, which will be like a year, will it suffice for us to observe one day's (the five) Prayers only?' He answered: 'No. You should make an estimate of the passage of time.' We then asked: 'O Messenger[saw] of Allah! What will be the speed of his movement in the earth?' He answered: 'Like a cloud being driven by the wind. He will arrive among a people and will call them to his obedience and they will respond to him (and believe in him). He will command the sky and it will send down rain on the people and will command the earth and it will produce pasture for them and their cattle will breed and milk will be plentiful. Then he will arrive among a people and will call them to his obedience but they will reject his call and he will turn away from them. They will be afflicted with drought and famine and will become destitute. He will pass through desert place and will call on it to bring forth its treasures and its treasures will follow him like bees. Then he will call a man in the glow of youth and will strike him with his sword and cut him into two pieces which will be separated from each other the length of an arrow. He will then call him and he will obey with a cheerful and smiling face.

He will be still in the middle of all this, when Allah, the Exalted, will raise the Messiah, son of Mary, who will descend on the white minaret in the East of Damascus, wearing two saffron-colored garments, his hands resting on the wings of two angels. When he bends his head drops of water shining like silver will fall from it and when he raises it there will be drops like pearls falling from it. A non-believer who is touched by his breath will expire and his breath will reach as far as his look. He will pursue the Antichrist and will encounter him at the gate of *Lud* (through debate and discussions will overpower him) and will slaughter him. The Messiah will then come to a people whom Allah had protected from the Antichrist. He will wipe away the dust from their faces and will inform them about their rank in Paradise. While he will be so occupied, Allah, the Exalted, will send revelation to Jesus[as] saying:

وَ يَبْعَثُ اللّٰهُ يَأْجُوْجَ وَ مَأْجُوْجَ وَ هُمْ مِنْ كُلِّ حَدَبٍ يَّنْسِلُوْنَ

I (Allah) have created some people whom no one will be able to fight and withstand.

Therefore, lead these, my servants, to Mount Sinai.

Their advance groups will pass over Lake *Tabariyyah* and drink all of its water; and when its rear group passes near it they will say: at one time there used to be water here. The Prophet of Allah, the Messiah (Jesus) and his companions will be surrounded (by the Gog and Magog people) until a calf's

head will appear better to them than a hundred Dinars appear to you today.

Then the Prophet of Allah, Jesus (i.e., the Promised Messiah) and his companions will turn to Allah, the exalted, and will supplicate Him so that Allah will create a germ in the necks of the people (of Gog and Magog) in consequence of which they will all suddenly die like one single person. The Prophet of Allah, Jesus (i.e., the Promised Messiah), and his companions will descend from the Mount but will not find a hand's breadth of space free from the corpses of (Gog and Magog) and their stink. Then, the Prophet of Allah, the Messiah (Jesus) and his companions will supplicate Allah, the Exalted, and He will send birds having necks like those of *Bukhti* camels which will carry the corpses and drop them wherever Allah wills. Then Allah the most Honored and Glorious will send down rain whereby every dwelling whether made of clay or of hair will be cleansed and become like a mirror. Then the earth will be commanded to produce its fruits and to regain its blessings, so that a whole group of people will be filled by eating of one pomegranate and will be able to take shelter under the shade of its leaves. Milk will be so blessed that the milk of one she-camel will suffice for a large company and that of a cow will suffice for a tribe of the people and that of a goat will suffice for a family. While they will be in this condition Allah the Exalted will send a pure breeze which will soothe (people) even under their armpits whereby the soul of every believer and Muslim will be captured (by Allah) and only the worst of the people will be left whose men will commit adultery like the donkeys; on such people the Hour (Day of Judgment) will be established.' "

(Muslim kitabul fitn bab dikaruddajjal wa sifatah wa mama'ahu, Abu Dawud, p 593)

a.. In Riadus Salihn which is a famous selection of Ahadth by Hadhrat Imam Nauvi, the commentator of Muslim, has used the words, Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam' with Jesus son of Mary and he also has used the words, 'Radi Allahu 'Anhum"with his Companions. (Riadus Sa-ihin, p 220, Publised by: Al-Maktabatul Maissariyyah al-Ka'inatul Hamiyyah At-Tabaqatuththaniyyah; Furthermore see: Riadus Salihin, pp 634-635, Published by: Amjad Academy, Lahore, Pakistan)

b. Muwaradduzzaman ilazawa'id ibn "Hayyan Kita-bul fitn bab fil kadhdhabin waddajjal"

It is stated in the Tradition #5 that when the Promised Messiah will come he will kill the Antichrist and the Gog and Magog nations will be destroyed through his prayers. On the other hand, it is apparent from the following Traditions (Tradition # 6-22) that the Promised Messiah will break the Cross. The Cross is a characteristic symbol of the Christians. The obvious meaning of this is that he will end the religious superiority of the Christians and smash the edifice of its false doctrine. While it suggests that the Christians, Antichrist, Gog and Magog are the qualitative names of just one power, it also makes it clear that Masih and *Mahdi* are the qualitative names of one and the same person.

Hadith #6

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] relates that the Holy Prophet[saw] said: "The Prophets are related to one another like step-brothers, having the same father but different mothers. Among the people, I am most close to Jesus[as], son of Mary. This is so, because there is no Prophet between him and me. When you see him, recognize him from his appearance. He is certainly going to descend. When you see him, recognize him from his appearance. He will be of average height, with straight reddish-blond hair from which water will appear to be dripping, even without moistening the hair. He will break the cross, kill the swine, and will end the poll-tax. During his age, Allah will make all other religions other than Islam extinct with respect to their spirituality and worldly power and might, and will kill the false Antichrist. This will be such a peaceful time that animals will graze together: a camel with a lion, a leopard with cows, and a wolf with goats. Young and older children will play with snakes; no one will harm the other. Thus, with the command of Allah as long as He wishes the Messiah to live in the world, he will live and then will die. Muslims will offer his funeral Prayer and take part in his burial."

(Abu Dawud kitabal malaham bab khurujaddajjal, p 594, Musnad Ahmad bin Hanbal, p 437/2)

Note 1:

قَالَ الشَّيْخُ مُحْيِي الدِّيْنِ ابْنُ الْعَرَبِيِّ الْمُقَلَّبُ بِالشَّيْخِ الْاَكْبَرِ وَجَبَ نُزُوْلُهُ فِيْ اٰخِرِ الزَّمَانِ بِتَعَلُّقِهٖ بِبَدَنٍ اٰخَرَ -

(حاشیہ تفسیر عرائس البیان)

Sheikh Muhiyyuddin Ibn Al-'Arabi who is better known by the

name of, 'Al-Sheikh Al-Akbar' has said that his (Jesus[as]) descent in the Latter Days will be through a different body.

(See Margin of Commentary Ara'isul Bayyan, Vol. 1, p 262).

قَالَتْ فِرْقَةٌ الْمُرَادُ مِنْ نُزُوْلِ عِيْسٰى خُرُوْجُ رَجُلٍ يُشْبِهُ عِيْسٰى فِى الْفَضْلِ وَ الشَّرَفِ كَمَا يُقَالُ لِلرَّجُلِ الْخَيْرِ وَ لِلشِّرِّيْرِ الشَّيْطَانُ تَشْبِيْهًا بِهِمَا وَ لاَ يُرَادُ الْاَعْيَانُ ـ

(خریدۃ العجائب صفحہ 214 مصنفہ امام سراج الدین ابن الوردی)

A group of scholars say that the meaning of the descent of Jesus[as] is the emergence of a person who will have a resemblance with Isa in his blessings and bounties. As they call the generous person a king and refer to an evil person as Satan because of the resemblance that exists between the two. In such use the self same person is never intended.

(Kharidatul 'Aja'ib, p 214, Imam Sirajuddin Ibn Alwardi)

Hadith #7

Hadhrat Ibn 'Umar[ra] relates that the Holy Prophet[sae] said: "I saw 'Isa, Musa, and Ibrahim (in a vision). As for 'Isa, he had a broad chest and reddish curly hair. However, Musa was of brown complexion, a bit heavy-set, with straight hair as if he was from the people of the *Zut* tribe."

(Bukhari kitabul anbiya' bab wadhkur fil kitab Maryam idhantabadhat min ahliha)

Hadith #8

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "O Muslims! What will be your condition when the son of Mary descends among you and will be your *Imam* from among yourselves?"

Another narration is: "Being one of you, he will lead you in Prayers." *(Bukhari kitabul anbiya' bab nazul 'Isa bin Maryam, Muslim, Musnad Ahmad,*

Hadith #9

"It is just possible that the one who lives amongst you long enough might meet Jesus[as], the son of Mary, who is the *Imam Mahdi* and a just arbiter. He will break the cross and kill the swine." *(Musnad Ahmad, p 156/2)*

Hadith #10

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] relates that the Holy Prophet[saw] said: "Doomsday will not come until Jesus[as], son of Mary, a just arbiter and leader, is commissioned. He will break the cross, kill the swine, end the poll-tax, and will distribute so much wealth that people will refuse to take it."

(Sunan Ibni Majah kitabul fitn bab fitanataddajjal wa kuruj 'Isa bin Maryam wa khuruj yajuj wa majuj,)

Hadith #11

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] relates that the Messenger[sa] of Allah said: "By Allah in whose possession is my life! Soon, the Son of Mary will descend among you who will make right decisions, arbitrate fairly, break the cross, kill the swine, and end the fighting. Similarly, he will distribute a lot of wealth, which no one will accept. During this period of time a single prostration will be better than the whole world and everything in it. While narrating this tradition Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] said:

'If you wish, you can understand it by reciting the following verse:

إِنْ مِّنْ أَهْلِ الْكِتَابِ إِلاَّ لَيُؤْمِنَنَّ بِهٖ قَبْلَ مَوْتِهٖ وَ يَوْمَ الْقِيٰمَةِ يَكُوْنُ عَلَيْهِمْ شَهِيْدًا

And there is no *one* among the people of the Book but will certainly believe in him before his death; and on the Day of Resurrection, he (Jesus[as]) shall be a witness against them. (4:160)' "

(Bukhari kitabul anbiya' bab nuzul 'Isa bin Maryam)

Hadith #12

Hadhrat Abu Hurairah[ra] relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "Jesus[as] son of Mary will descend and he will kill the swine and break the cross. Prayers will be joined for his sake. He will distribute wealth but no one will accept it, and he will end the poll-tax. He will descend at a place called *Arrauha-'* and he will don a pilgrimage robe there for *Hajj* or *'Umrah* or for both."

(Musnad Ahmad, p 290/2 Misri)

Hadith #13

Beware! No Messenger or Prophet will come during the period between Jesus[as] son of Mary (The Promised Messiah[as]) and me. Hearken! He will be my vicegerent after me in my followers. He will certainly kill the Antichrist, break the cross and end the poll-tax. At that time wars will end. Remember! Whosoever gets the honour of meeting him, should convey my *Salam* to him.

(Tibranil ausat wassaghir)

Hadith #14

Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin 'Amr[ra] relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "Jesus son of Mary (the Promised Messiah) will descend to a land, he will marry, have children, will live

about forty-five years, and then will pass away and will be buried with me in my grave. Thus, I and the Jesus son of Mary (the Promised Messiah) will get up from a grave between Abu-Bakr[ra] and 'Umar[ra]."

(Mishkat bab nuzul 'Isa-, p 480)

Hadith #15

Hadhrat Anas bin Malik[ra] relates that the Messenger[sa] of Allah said: "The time is near when the situation will become serious. There will be numerous calamities in the world, people will become miserly, and wretched people will see Doomsday near. At this critical time, the one commissioned by Allah will appear. There is no *Mahdi* other than Jesus son of Mary[as]."

(Ibni Majah bab shiddatuzzaman, p 257 Misri Matba' 'Ilmiyyah 1313 H, Kanzul 'ammal, p 186/7)

Hadith #16

Hadhrat Abu Sa'id Al-Khudri relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "The *Mahdi* will have a close relationship with me. He will have a bright forehead and tall nose. He will establish justice in the world as the world will be full of oppression. He will remain the master for seven years."

(Sunan Abu Dawud kitabal mahdi)

Note:

Perhaps it refers to the publication of the book, 'Aik Ghalti ka Iza-lah' in which the Promised Mesiah[as] has explained his claim and has clearly explained his position (status). This brochure was published in 1901

Hadith #17

Hadhrat 'Abdullah bin Harith bin Haz'iz-Zubaidi[ra] relates that the Messenger[saw] of Allah said: "Some people will appear in the East who will clear the way for the *Mahdi*."

(Ibni Majah bab khurujal mahdi)

Hadith #18

Hadhrat Muhammad bin 'Ali[ra] (i.e., Hadhrat Imam Baqir[ra]) relates: "For our *Mahdi* there are (appointed) two signs which have never been manifested since the creation of the Heavens and the Earth. The moon will be eclipsed on the first (of its appointed nights in the month) of *Ramadan*, and the sun will be eclipsed on the middle one (of its appointed days). Both these signs (in this way), shall have never appeared before (for any claimant) since the creation of Heaven and the Earth."

(Sunan Dar Qutni bab sifatussalatal khusuf walkusuf wa hai'atahuma, p 188/1, Matba' Ansari, Delhi 1310 H)

Note:

Both these Signs have been fulfilled in 1894.

Hadith #19

(Sahib Jawaharul Israr writes that this narration is mentioned in Arba'in) that the Holy Prophet[saw] said: "The *Mahdi* will be raised in a town called *Kad'a*. Allah the Exalted will support his claim with manifest signs. He will be endowed with three hundred and thirteen illustrious companions whose names, countries and addresses will be written in a sealed book."

(Kadha fil arba'in, Jawahrul israr qalmi, p 56, musannafah Hadhrat Sheikh 'Ali Hmzah bin 'Ali al-Mulkul Tusi Irshadati Faridi, Vol. 3, p 70 Matbu'a Mufid 'Am Press, Agrah, 1330 H)

Note 1: Perhaps it refers to Qadian.

Hadith #20

Hadhrat 'Ali[ra] relates that the Messenger[sa] of Allah said: "A person will be commissioned in the region of *Wara'innahar* (Turkistan) who will be named Al-Harith bin Harrath. The name of his advance-guard will be Mansur. He will be a source of grandeur for the family of Muhammad[saw] just as the *Quraish* was a source of grandeur for the Messenger[saw] of Allah. It is obligatory upon each Muslim to help another Muslim or he said to answer him."

(Abu Dawud kitabal Mahdi)

Hadith #21

Hadhrat 'Ali[ra] relates that a man asked (the Holy Prophet[saw]), "Besides keeping fast during the month of *Ramadhan*, during which other month should I keep fast?" He[sa] said: "If you want to keep fast besides the month of *Ramadan*, then keep fast in the month of *Muharram* as this is also a month blessed by Allah. During this month, there is a day on which Allah accepted the repentance of a people (i.e., Bani Israel) and on it will relent towards other people (too)."

(Tirmidhi abwabussaum bab saumal Muharram)

Hadith #22

Hadhrat Thauban[ra] who was a freed slave of the Messenger[saw] of Allah relates that the Holy Prophet[sa] once said: "Two groups of my followers are such that Allah will save them from the Fire. One is the group that will fight in a country called Hind and the

other group will be the helper of Jesus[as] son of Mary."

(Nasai kitabul jihad, Musnad Ahmad, p 278/5, Kanzul 'Umma-l, p 202/7)"

iii. It is clear from the Tradition #8, 14, 15 and 16 that Jesus[as] is the *Imam* (leader) and *Mahdi* of the Muslims, and it is accepted about the *Mahdi* that he belongs to the *Ummat-e-Muhammadiyya* (the followers of Muhammad[saw]). Therefore, Jesus[as] means that person will be born in the *Ummat-e-Muhammad-iyya* and not (the one mentioned in the Holy Qur'an) Jesus[as], the Prophet for the Bani Israel. In other words, as the Promised Messiah has to do the reformation of the Christians, that is why he has been named as Jesus[as] and since he also has to do reformation of the Muslims, that is why he has been also name as *Mahdi*.

iv. It appears from Hadith #14 that the Promised Messiah will live for forty-five years. However, if one accepts the belief of the non-Ahmadis that Jesus[as] himself in person will descend from the sky and that at the time of his resurrection he was thirty -five years old, then at the time of his death, he should become about seventy five years. Whereas, according to Traditions he died at the age of one hundred twenty years. See Tradition #4 above.

So, it proves that the Promised Messiah will be born in the *Ummat-e-Muhammad-iyya* (the followers of Muhammad[saw]), and after receiving revelation he will live forty-five years. After his claim that he has been commissioned by Allah, he will marry, and will be blessed with children whose birth would be foretold. Being in perfect obedience to his Master Prophet, the Holy Prophet[saw], he will have perfect unity (spiritually) with him and he will proclaim:

مَنْ فَرَّقَ بَيْنِيْ وَ بَيْنَ الْمُصْطَفٰى فَمَا عَرَفَنِيْ وَمَا رَاٰى

He who creates separation/ dissension between me and the chosen one he has not recognized me, and not seen me. i.e., not discerns my claim.

Similarly, it is clear from Tradition mentioned below that the Promised Messiah will have a special link with India.

v. The Promised Messiah will be not only *Imam Mahdi* but also an *Ummati Nabi* (follower Prophet, i.e. he will receive blessings through perfect obedience to the Holy Prophet[saw]). He will be a shadow, and adumberate (*baruz*) of the Holy Prophet[saw] and will be commissioned to serve and preach his religion (Islam). Also see Traditions #5, 13, 16 and *Mustadrik Hakim* Volume 1, Book 1, p. 87, Musnad Ahmad Vol. 3 p. 245.

vi.

لَامَنَا فَاهَ بِيْنَ اَنْ يَكُوْنَ نَبِيًّا وَ اَنْ يَكُوْنَ مُتَابِعًا لِنَبِيِّنَا ﷺ فِيْ بَيَانِ اَحْكَامِ شَرِيْعَتِهٖ وَ اِتْقَانِ طَرِيْقَتِهٖ وَ لَوْ بِالْوَحْيِ اِلَيْهِ۔

(مرقاۃ شرح مشکوٰۃ صفحہ ۵/۵۶۴)

(The author of *Mirqat* says): "There is no discrepancy between these two things, that he will be a Prophet and that he is a follower of our Prophet[sa] in explaining the Divine law and strengthening his[sa] way (*sunnah*) through the revelation given to him

(Mirqat Sharah Mishkat, p. 5/564))

vii.

فَهُوَ (اَیْ الْمَسِیْحُ الْمَوْعُوْدُ) عَلَیْهِ السَّلَامُ وَ اِنْ کَانَ خَلِیْفَةً فِی الْاُمَّةِ الْمُحَمَّدِیَّةِ فَهُوَ رَسُوْلٌ اَوْ نَبِیٌّ کَرِیْمٌ عَلٰی حَالِهٖ۔

(حجج الکرامہ صفحہ ۴۲۶، مصنفہ نواب صدیق حسن خاں)

So, even if he (the Promised Messiah) is a vicegerent in *Ummat-e-Muhammadiyya*, he in his capacity is a Messenger and an Honored Prophet.

(Hajajul Kirama, p 426, Published by Nawab Siddique Hasan Khan)

viii.

قَالَ الشَّیْخُ الْاَکْبَرُ عِیْسٰی عَلَیْهِ السَّلَامُ یَنْزِلُ فِیْنَا مِنْ غَیْرِ تَشْرِیْعٍ وَ هُوَ نَبِیٌّ بِلَا شَکٍّ۔

(فتوحات مکیہ صفحہ ۱/۵۷۱)

Sheikh Muhiyyuddin Ibni 'Arabi[rh] has said: "Jesus[as] will descend among us without Divine Law. Undoubtedly, he will be a Prophet."

(Futuhat-e-Makkiyya, Vol. 1, p 571)

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HELP HUMANITY FIRST WITH MONETORY DONATIONS

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OVER 1,200 AHMADI MUSLIMS GATHER IN CHINO FOR 26th WEST COAST CONVENTION

Imam Shamshad A. Nasir

This past Christmas weekend heralded more than just the traditional church services, turkey dinners, holiday sales and gift-giving. At the Baitul Hameed Mosque on Ramona Ave. in Chino, an overflow crowd of 1,261 Ahmadi Muslims and guests filled the prayers halls and lecture auditoriums for three days of invigorating spiritual fellowship beginning on the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 23rd and ending past noon on Sunday, Dec. 25th.

Ahmadi Muslims from 36 chapters across America convened for their 26th annual West Coast convention. Most of the participants came from chapters stretching from San Diego to British Columbia, but a decent number hailed from chapters on or near the East Coast such as Philadelphia, New York and the Islamic Community's U.S. headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. Several dozen more came from as far away as Canada, the United Kingdom, Pakistan and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Many of these conventioneers were national office-holders of the worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which is now established in 200 countries with membership in the tens of millions.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's founder, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad[as] of Qadian, India, began holding these conventions in 1891, several years after the Community was established in 1889. Ahmad started the Islamic reformation movement at the behest of God, who Ahmad claimed appointed him as the Reformer of the Age and Imam Mahdi (the guided spiritual leader) for the Muslims, as well as the awaited manifestation of the Messiah expected in Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Islam. With the exception of most Jews, who believe their messiah is still yet to come, the followers of all the other major faiths are waiting for the Second Coming of their messiah or prophet.

Ahmadi Muslims believe Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad[as] came not only as the *Imam Mahdi* for the Muslims, but also as the fulfillment of all awaited Second Comings, including that of Jesus (peace be upon him). Christians and most Muslims believe Jesus was taken up bodily alive to Heaven 2,000 years ago and will, in the latter days, descend bodily alive from Heaven.

Ahmadi Muslims believe as Jesus[as] taught -- that Second Comings are not literal, but metaphorical, occurring through another prophet appointed by God in the "power and spirit" of the earlier prophet -- just as (according to Jesus) John the Baptist was the "second coming" of Elijah.

The purposes of the Ahmadiyya Muslim conventions are to foster mutual love and brotherhood among the members, offer new converts a chance to meet other members, increase the righteousness of members, and offer those not already members the opportunity to meet and interact with Ahmadi Muslims directly and hopefully experience a renewed zeal for spiritual knowledge and nearness to God.

Satisfying one's hunger for nearness to God is accomplished in Islam through the five-time daily prayers that all Muslims traditionally perform, preferably in congregation. At the convention, the sheer volume of parishioners adds a deeply-affecting emotionalism to the prayer ritual that heightens one's sense of community and togetherness while at the same time intensifying the experience of individual connection to God during the prayer itself.

A person's thirst for spiritual knowledge is regularly sated during the three-day convention by many heartfelt devotional poems and thought-provoking and inspirational speeches delivered on topics related to Islam, the Holy Prophet[saw], the Holy Qur'an, the examples of great Muslims past and present, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, its founder Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad,[as] and his *Khulafa* or spiritual leaders. (The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is currently blessed with its fifth *Khalifa*, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad[aba], who directs the worldwide affairs of the Community from London. He was elected in April of 2003.)

To see video coverage for all three days of the 26th annual West Coast Ahmadiyya Muslim convention, go on-line to:

www.Ahmadiyya.us

then look under "Updates From Alislam.org" and click on the link that says:

"26th *Jalsa Salana* USA West Coast 2011 (23 to 25 Dec)."

Clicking on this link will open a YouTube window showing all the video coverage of the three-day convention in the order it was delivered.

The speeches on Friday dealt with subjects as diverse as: the Holy Qur'an as a Divine Sign from God; the Benevolence of the Holy Prophet Muhammad[saw]; and the meaning of the term "throne" in relation to God and His seat of absolute authority and majesty as opposed to the belief by some that it's a physical chair for God to sit down on when He's tired.

The speeches on Saturday featured separate sessions in the morning -- one for ladies, where they delivered their own discourses to their fellow Ahmadi sisters, and a simultaneous session for men.

The speech line-up for the ladies featured these topics:

- Power of Prayer: Complete Trust in Allah.
- Patience is a Virtue: Examples from the Life of Muhammad[saw].
- A Woman's Role in Raising Children.
- A Wife's Responsibility towards her Husband.
- Ahmadi Youth Identity in Western Society.

On the men's side, the scheduled topics included:

- Life of Hadhrat Uthman[ra], the Third *Khalifa* in Islam.
- Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's[as] Love for the Holy Prophet[saw].
- Islam is a Way of Life.
- A Husband's Responsibility towards his Wife & Family.

Both sessions ran from 10am until 1:30pm, the traditional time for the first afternoon prayer, *Zuhr,* which was combined due to the convention program with *Asr,* the late-afternoon prayer. After these two congregational prayers were completed, the main session continued in the men's lecture hall, where the speeches covered these topics:

- Worship of God and Service to Humanity.
- Prophecies about the Advent of the *Imam Mahdi.*
- Directives and Advice by the *Khalifa* regarding Moral Training.

This last speech was delivered by Shamshad A. Nasir, *Imam* of the Chino Mosque where the convention was held. He related the directions from the *Khalifa* given to Ahmadi women on such things as increasing one's piety and humbleness, maintaining one's chastity and righteousness, keeping away from harmful and un-Islamic habits and customs which are accepted in the West such as unrestricted socializing with members of the opposite gender, wearing inappropriate clothing, and using Facebook and other social media. Advice to men followed along similar lines, because being modest and righteous applied equally to both men and women.

Following the completion of Saturday's afternoon program around sunset, the two remaining daily prayers (*Maghrib* and *Isha*) were performed consecutively because of additional evening programs, including a seminar for parents and their unmarried children on how to find suitable and righteous spouses.

The concluding Sunday session began at 10am and ended around 12:30pm and featured these speeches: "Prayers are the Key to Bliss and Fortune" and

"Remembering the Promised Messiah and *Imam Mahdi.*" The concluding address was given by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's National Vice-President, Dr. Naseem Rehmatullah. This was followed by collective silent prayer, then the two afternoon congregational prayers (*Zuhr* and *Asr*) were performed in the prayer halls, and then lunch was served.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

If you can type Urdu in In Page and have time to help in typing/setting the Urdu section of the Gazette (An-Noor) please contact the Editor:

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Maulana Naseem Mahdi Delivered the Invocation to the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives on Dec. 12, 2011

MAY GOD BLESS AMERICA AND ALL WHO RESIDE IN HER

Assalam-o-Alaikum Everyone! May God's peace and blessings be upon each of us! All praise truly only belongs to God, the Lord of all the worlds. I am truly humbled to stand before you and join with you all as we pray to God, the One Who created all that exists. We are all His Children and He is the Lord, Sustainer, Provider and Protector of all of us.

I am a Muslim, a Muslim who believes in the Messiah Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani. I belong to the oldest Muslim Community in the United States, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, which was founded in the US in 1920. As a Muslim, my belief in the utter One-ness of God has a most important implication that we, the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community have taken as our motto:

Love for All, Hatred for None.

If there is but One Being Who created all of us and if we love Him, and Adore and Worship Him, then how can we harbor any hate or ill will towards any one? How can we love God and not fall in love with every one and every thing He has created? We cannot! So I stand here as a Muslim, as a believer in the One God, whom I love, and worship to pray that:

O God, shower your choicest blessings upon all of us.
Bless this nation, our home, and all who reside in her.

The Holy Founder of Islam, Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him, taught Muslims in a famous saying of his, that:

Love of one's homeland, one place of residence, is a part of a Muslim's faith.

For a Muslim who loves God and His Messenger Muhammad, there is never any question of what comes first, his faith or his country -because Islam, the faith of a Muslim, demands that we love the country of our residence. Another implication of God's UNITY is that He alone provides for all – He takes care of the spiritual as well as the physical needs of every one - even for those who do not believe in His existence.

Look, how the Sun He has created shines upon us all. So the One who took care of all our physical needs – of the physical needs of all of us, how could that same God have neglected some and chosen others when it came to providing spiritual enlightenment? God could not have neglected any one. God's love is UNIVERSAL and INDISCRIMINATE! This is the God Islam calls us to fall in love with and adore and worship.

Islam teaches us that God has been sending His revelation among all the peoples of the world in all ages and periods from the earliest of times. So we, Muslims, believe in Adam and Noah and Abraham and Moses and Jesus and Zoroaster and Krishna and Buddha – may peace be on all of them – all were God's Messengers sent to teach humanity about God's existence and to provide them guidance to make their lives a veritable Paradise on earth. So it is with this concept of the Single Universal God of all that I stand here and pray that He may bless all of us who have made the United States our home.

Grant us, O God, unity and make us all one. Let those of us whom you have blessed with abundance discharge our responsibility to care for those who are not so fortunate.

Remove from us all rancor and suspicion and unite us all in love and make harmony and peace reign throughout the land. Ameen!

OUR BELOVED AMMI JAAN: AMTUL HAIY SAHIBA WIFE OF THE LATE CHAUDRY MOHAMMAD IKRAMULLAH SAHIB

Dr. Amtul Mujeeb, Sadr Lajna Ima'illah Los Angeles East

Our beloved mother, Respected Amtul Haiy Sahiba (former Sadr *Lajna Ima'illah* Multan, Pakistan) wife of the Late Chaudry Mohammad Ikramullah Sahib (former *Ameer Jama'at Ahmadiyya Multan*, Pakistan) passed away on July 15, 2011 at the age of 81.

اِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَ اِنَّآ اِلَيْهِ رٰجِعُوْنَ

She was visiting Pakistan to attend the wedding of her grandson in Islamabad. Her funeral prayers took place in the lawns of *Sadr Anjuman Ahmadiya* Pakistan in Rabwah and were led by Mirza Khursheed Ahmad Sahib, *Nazr-e-A'ala* Pakistan. Mirza Anwer Ahmad Sahib (son of Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood[ra]) led the silent prayers after her burial in *Bahisti Maqbarah* Rabwah. Later, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V[aba] graciously led *Ammijan's* funeral prayers in absentia on August 19, 2011 at the Fazl Mosque in London followed by a very kind and affectionate letter of condolence to all of us (her children).

Our *Ammi Jaan* was the daughter of Mohammad Bashir Sahib Chuqtai and daughter-in-law of Babu Akbar Ali Sahib of Star Hoisery, both companions of the Promised Messiah[as]. Her maternal grandfather, Sheikh Niaz Mohammad Sahib was also a companion of the Promised Messiah[as]. Her paternal grandfather Babu Roshan Din Sahib was one of the first 313 companions of the Promised Messiah[as], and the founder of the Ahmadiya School in Sialkot.

Adherence to Islamic Values

Ammi Jaan was a pious lady, ever supplicating to Allah[swt], and keenly adhering to Islamic principles and values. In addition to saying her five daily prayers, she was regular with her *Tahajjud* and *Ishraaq* Prayers. She was particular about fasting (as long as her health permitted) and the timely payment of *Zakat*. A few days before her demise, when she was getting ready to travel to Pakistan in June 2011, she inquired about the payment of her July 2011 *Chanda Wassiyat* that was due the following month. She also reminded me about the payment of her *Zakat* which was two months away in August 2011, per her practice of paying it in the month of *Ramadhan*. (Both these *Chandas* were paid after her demise.)

She observed Islamic *Purdah* in the form of '*burqa*' until her demise. We were in Rabwah the day before she passed away. In view of the excessive heat at that time a child suggested wearing a '*chaddar*' (the extra large scarf) instead of *burqa*. Her response was, "This *burqa* will only go when I go to my grave!" Because of her excellent example, all her daughters, daughters-in-law and girls of her next generation also observe *Purdah*.

Ammi Jaan served in *Lajna Ima'illah* Multan for 25 years. She was *Sadr Lajna Ima'illah* Multan for a period of 4 years. During her tenure, *Lajna* Multan secured the overall first position of merit amongst all the *Lajna Ima'illah* chapters in Pakistan. Hadhrat Syeda Maryam Siddiqa Sahiba (wife of Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II[ra]) was then the National Sadr of *Lajna Ima'illah* Pakistan. She greatly appreciated *Ammijan's* performance. *Ammijan* worked very hard to make *Lajna Ima'illah* Multan an active chapter. She visited members, going door to door, to motivate and impart moral training. She never collected any '*Chanda*' during these visits, instead she urged members to be regular in meetings and pay their dues then.

During the latter days of her life, *Ammi Jaan* fulfilled her desire of service to the *Jama'at* by assisting me in my *Lajna* duties. In 2010, Los Angeles *Jama'at* hosted the National *Lajna* Mentoring Conference at *Baitul Hameed* Mosque in Chino. I had to work until late at the mosque. *Ammi Jaan* always accompanied me, despite the fact that sitting for long hours made her knees uncomfortable. She never complained of pain, instead sat there praying for all the volunteers. I got a lot of moral support and comfort by her prayers.

As *Sadr Lajna Ima'illah* Multan she was in constant contact with the

membership. Many members regularly visited our home and sought her advice in all kinds of personal matters. *Ammi Jaan* stood by them in their moments of happiness and grief. She regularly prayed for them. This practice continued till her death. *Ammi Jaan* offered *Tahajjud* Prayers for a greater part of the night. Once I inquired of her if she was praying for her children. She responded, "Not just you... ladies at the mosque request me for prayers. I need time to pray for them as well." Once she told me an incident in which she had been praying for a lady's need per her request. A few months later, she met her again and asked if the problem had been resolved. The lady responded in the affirmative. *Ammi Jaan* remarked, "Why did you not update me since I am still praying for the issue?" Talking of her prayers, a lady told us after her death about the request she had made to *Ammi Jaan* for some special prayers. Sometime later when she met *Ammi Jaan*, she reminded her of the same prayers again. Before she could complete her sentence, *Ammi Jaan* interrupted and said, "There is no need for a reminder. I remember it and am praying for you since then." The lady was really moved and narrated the incidence to her husband. Her husband was impressed and expressed the desire to meet *Ammi Jaan* so he could make a request for prayers too.

Association with *Khilafat*

Ammi Jaan was passionately obedient and devoted to *Khilafate Ahmadiyya*. She regularly listened to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih's[aba] sermons and various addresses multiple times until she understood the message completely. Then she would narrate a summarized version to us and urge us also to listen to it again. She often told us about the speeches of the second *Khalifa*, Hadhrat Musleh Mau'ood[ra], especially on the occasions of *Jalsa Salana* Qadian. *Ammi Jaan* was a young girl at that time. She narrated how these speeches were very long, continuing into late evening, despite the cold winter and sometimes heavy rains. *Ammi Jaan* mentioned that she and other young girls would at times fall asleep during these speeches while the general audience listened in complete silence (most of them seated on floor covered with dry grass and in open air).

Respect for the Family of the Promised Messiah[as]

Ammi Jaan had great respect and affection for the family of the Promised Messiah[as]. She told us about Hadhrat Syeda Nusrat Jehan Begum[ra] Sahiba, wife of the Promised Messiah[as] (popularly known as Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra]) and inspired us to follow her advice. She often spoke about the morning walks that Hadhrat *Amma Jan*[ra] took in Qadian with other Ahmadi ladies. On her way back Hadhrat *Amma Jaan*[ra] would drop by at Ahmadi homes en route. She often stopped by the house of *Ammi Jaan's* grandmother. She would ask about the breakfast menu, and take a few bites. This delighted Grandma immensely.

Respect for Missionaries and Devotees

Ammi Jaan held the *Jama'at* missionaries and devotees, as well, in great esteem. She told us about the great sacrifices made by the early missionaries when they were sent overseas for propagation. Some left their infant children and never saw them again. Others stayed away from their families for a long time during which period their wives brought up the kids with great perseverance and sacrifice. She mentioned how she always prayed for the missionaries and also requested prayers from them.

Financial Sacrifice

Ammi Jaan was quick to respond when asked to offer financial sacrifices. She signed up for *Wasiyayt*, before marriage, at the young age of sixteen. Whenever a new scheme was launched, she would try to be among the first to participate. She made a point to contribute to all possible schemes. Once, at the time of *Jalsa Salana* in Rabwah, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III[rh] urged ladies to donate towards the construction of a mosque in Europe. At that time *Ammijan* owned only one gold ring. She promptly offered that ring. It appears that Allah[swt] granted acceptance to this sacrifice; later on she was blessed with gold rings more than she could wear on all her fingers at a time. Similarly, when Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V[aba] made an appeal for donations during his visit to Spain in 2003, *Ammi Jaan* decided to donate the two gold bangles that our late father, Chaudry Mohammad Ikramullah Sahib, had given her as *'Haq Mehr'* (dowry). She was blessed with the opportunity to present these bangles in person to Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V[aba] during her visit to UK *Jalsa* 2003. After the death of our late father, *Ammi Jaan* always donated on his behalf for special schemes, especially for the construction of mosques - a sacrifice very close to his heart. A few weeks before her demise, she urged us to donate absolutely every-

thing to the Tahir Heart Institute in Rabwah from our newly furnished house in Multan and our other two houses in Lahore. After the goods had been sent to the Tahir Heart Institute, she advised me to make a complete list of the donations and personally submit it to the Institute's Administrator, General Mahmoodul Hasan Noori Sahib. *Alhamdolillah* I was able to comply with her instructions two days before she passed away.

Marriage and Devoted Wife

Our beloved *Ammi Jaan* often told us about her *nikah* that was announced by Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih II[ra] in Rabwah. *Ammijan's* grandfather went with our late father for the *nikah* ceremony. When Hazoor[ra] saw the *nikah* form he tossed it aside saying it was not required, and he himself kindly became her *'vali'* and announced the *nikah.* (Hazoor[ra] knew *Ammi Jaan* since she was a small child and a close friend of his daughter, the late Sahibzadi Amtul Naseer Begum Sahiba. He also knew our father as a very devoted and active *'khadim'*).

Our *Ammi Jaan* held our late father in great esteem. She stood by him through thick and thin. If he ever forbade us from anything, *Ammi Jaan* made sure it was followed in letter and spirit in the household. She demonstrated this obedience in minor matters as well. For example, early in their marriage, our father expressed a disliking to her wearing black clothes (though he was fine if his daughters wore them). *Ammi Jaan* therefore never wore this color in our father's lifetime. About seven years after he passed away, a friend presented *Ammi Jaan* with a beautiful black suit. Every time I asked about getting it stitched, she tactfully avoided the subject. I mentioned this to my sister, Amtul Sabooh Sahiba, who remarked, "*Abi Jaan* (our late father) did not like this color so *Ammi Jaan* will not wear it." To confirm, I decided to ask *Ammi Jaan* directly; *Ammi Jaan* simply smiled and I got my answer!

Ammi Jaan was an ever-supportive wife. Our father was bed-ridden in the last two years of his life. During this period, *Ammi Jaan* hardly ever stepped out of the house. She had children and assistance around to serve our father, but tried her best to take personal care of him as much as she could (even at the cost of her own health). She regularly advised us to serve him and pray for his health.

Training of Children

Ammi Jaan gave up all her social activities to focus on the moral training and education of her children. Our parents were very particular about the punctuality of *salat* and the daily recitation of the Holy Qur'an in the mornings. *Fajr, Maghrib* and *Tahajjud salats* were generally offered in congregation. I can still 'hear' our father's moving supplications during *Tahajjud* that greatly motivate me. In addition to several other prayers, he generally recited the following Qur'anic prayers: From chapter 3, verse 194:

رَبَّنَآ اِنَّنَا سَمِعْنَا مُنَادِيًا يُّنَادِيْ لِلْاِيْمَانِ اَنْ اٰمِنُوْا بِرَبِّكُمْ فَاٰمَنَّا ۚ رَبَّنَا فَاغْفِرْلَنَا ذُنُوْبَنَا وَ كَفِّرْ عَنَّا سَيِّاٰتِنَا وَ تَوَفَّنَا مَعَ الْاَبْرَارِ ۚ

"Our Lord, we have heard a Crier calling *us* unto faith, 'Believe ye in your Lord,' and we have believed. Our Lord, forgive us, therefore, our errors and remove from us our evils, and in death number us with the righteous."

And from Chapter 25, verse 75:

رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ اَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيّٰتِنَا قُرَّةَ اَعْيُنٍ وَّاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِيْنَ اِمَامًا ۝

"And those who say, 'Our Lord, grant us of our wives and children the delight of our eyes, and make us a model for the righteous."

In solitude, he often recited some couplets of the Promised Messiah[as] related to the victory of Islam in a very moving voice.

The *Atfal, Khuddam, Nasirat* and *Lajna* tests were taken very seriously in our home. We could not excuse ourselves from taking these tests. Children were trained to be ready for any type of volunteer work required by the *Jama'at.* We were sent to Rabwah for the annual classes held during summer vacation.

As I talk of the *Lajna* tests, I may mention here that *Ammi Jaan* practiced what she preached. She was very regular in taking the tests herself. Our local *Taleem* Secretary always commended the quality of her answers. A few weeks before her demise, she memorized the prescribed Holy Qur'an verses of the *Lajna* syllabus for our local *Ijtema.* In the last *Lajna* test she took in 2011, she faced a new feature of 'multiple choice questions' that had been introduced in the system. *Ammi Jaan* could not fully comprehend this format; as a result, she got one or two questions incorrect. This made her sad. I happened to meet our

National *Taleem* Secretary and casually mentioned this to her, who advised me to instruct our local *Taleem* Secretary not to deduct points from *Ammi Jaan's* test due to this confusion. When I mentioned this to *Ammi Jaan*, her reaction took me by surprise. Visibly hurt, she remarked "This is not how I brought you up. I never sought favors for you, so why did you do it for me?" *Ammi Jaan* then forbade me to say anything to our local *Taleem* Secretary about changing her scores. *Subhan Allah*, what an excellent illustration of integrity!

Ammi Jaan was very keen to get the best education for her children. She told us how she had brought this subject up with our father even before the first two children were old enough to go to school. At that time in Pakistan the private (Christian) missionary schools, renowned for their excellent quality of education, were very expensive. *Ammi Jaan* wanted us to go to these schools. Our late father expressed his reservation on two accounts. First, that there would be no Islamic education; children would be learning about Christianity without having the ability at that tender young age to compare it with the true Islamic teachings. Second, the unduly higher cost of education, as compared to public schools, may not be justified. *Ammi Jaan* promised to take extra care about our religious education before sending us off to school and also during our schooling. She also promised never to ask for anything beyond this request and teach contentment to the children as well. We are all witness to the fact that *Ammi Jaan* meticulously lived up to her commitment till the end, in days of affluence and otherwise. If a child ever hinted towards a genuine need in school, she would always advise to pray to Allah[swt]. At this young age, I recall we witnessed some great miracles of the power of prayer. *Ammi Jaan* also honored her assurance about our moral and religious training. Our teachers knew that we would never tolerate anything contrary to the Islamic teachings. In fact we were known to be the only kids in school that boldly stood up and spoke for Islam. *Ammi Jaan* was not only keen to send us to private schools she took great pains to ensure we got the best grades too. Her own education did not exceed the tenth grade. She was able to guide us well up until our sixth grade. After that, our late father would take over. He guided us in the minutest manner, from choice of subjects to selection of schools & universities and he stayed in touch with our teachers to ensure we were on the right track, academically and morally.

There is one thing that our dear parents took special care of, and that is the equality in bringing each of us up. They always reminded us of Allah's blessings and urged us to be grateful to Him for everything. May Allah[swt] always enable us to adhere to this advice and earn His pleasure. *Ameen.*

Ammi Jaan was a close friend of each child. We could talk to her on any and every topic. She always advised us in a gentle and loving manner. I do not recall her ever getting mad at us. If she got upset about a child's mistake, she clearly looked distressed. She seldom said anything at that time. Later, though, she would tell us that she had prayed to Allah[swt] for our guidance and forgiveness. Requesting *Ammi Jaan* for prayers always gave a special feeling of satisfaction. We were sure *Ammi Jaan* would pray for us even if we missed praying for ourselves. Children of the next generation had a similar loving relationship with her. Everyone felt that she loved him/her more than the rest. May *Ammi Jaan's* supplications always be our guardian. *Ameen.*

The feeling of being loved was not only amongst her children; people she interacted with in the mosque and otherwise felt the same. One thing that really stood out after her death was the comment that many people made about the special relationship (they felt) she had with them. *Ammi Jaan* had a heart full of love and compassion for everyone she came across.

Our late brother, Anas Ahmad Chaudry, was martyred in 1980 when he was in the final year of the University of Engineering & Technology (UET) in Lahore. Before his funeral Prayers, Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih III[rh], met with his university friends in the presence of my late father and two brothers, Anis Ahmad Chaudry Sahib and Monas Ahmad Chaudry Sahib. Hazoor[rh] said, "He is the first martyr of the fifteenth century. Additional martyrdoms will follow." The excellent example of patience and forbearance shown by our parents at the tragic death of their young son quickly became the talk of the town. People came from far and wide to offer condolences and express their amazement at and appreciation for our parent's submission to the will of Allah[swt]. Once in the presence of some guests, I lost control and broke down in tears. *Ammi Jaan* sent me out of the room. Later expressing her displeasure she said "Tears should be shed in front of Allah[swt]. Only He has the remedy for

all afflictions."

Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih IV[rh] graciously awarded me with a gold medal for doing my Ph.D. in Islamic *Purdah* and for abstaining from un-Islamic practices. The wording engraved on the medal reads;

"Special medal for excellence in preserving Islamic values during higher studies at Oxford".

When the time came to present this medal to me, Hazoor[rh] especially nominated *Ammi Jaan* (to present it) whose exceptional training had enabled me to set this example.

Alhamdolillah all of us, three brothers and three sisters, are *Moosis* and blessed with the privilege to serve Islam/Ahmadiyyat in various capacities. All praise belongs to Allah[swt].

Treatment of Helpers

Ammi Jaan showed great consideration to the cleaning help she had at home. Even if she was unhappy with the quality of work, *Ammi Jaan* made a point that the helper did not leave without having something to eat. If she noticed fatigue, she would urge the helper to leave early. She would do so even if the work had not been completed so the helper could take extra rest. A few weeks before she passed away, *Ammi Jaan* stayed with our sister, Amtul Qayyum Sahiba, in Pakistan. She developed a similar affection for my sister's cleaning assistant. When *Ammi Jaan* died, we were amazed to see that assistant cry bitterly as if she had lost her own mother.

Blessed Ending

Ammi Jaan's death was very sudden. She had gone to Pakistan to attend the wedding of her grandson. A few hours before our departure to the airport, *Ammi Jaan* reminded me to take her *Wasiyyat* file with us. At that time the reminder did not surprise me since she often spoke about her death and her wish to be buried in '*Bahishti Maqbarah*' Rabwah. But now when I look back I recall several instances in which she was making very specific statements as if she knew about her death. I wonder if Allah[swt] had already informed her about it... she did not say anything to her children in this regard.

At the wedding, *Ammi Jaan* was really pleased to meet all our relatives. Two days before her death, we went to Rabwah to visit the grave of our beloved late father in *Bahishti Maqbara.* Something that really struck me as unusual was the calm look on her face while visiting our father's grave. Unlike any of the previous visits, she did not appear sad. Later a friend told us that *Ammi Jaan* had spoken to her following this visit to *Bahishti Maqbarah* and had said, "Their father has not left any place for me by his grave. I wonder where I will be buried now." (Our father is buried in the old *Bahishti Maqbarah* while *Ammi Jaan* is buried in the new *Bahishti Maq-barah.*)

At her demise, not only the family members, but members of the *Jama'at* who visited to condole, remarked that *Ammi Jaan's* wishes for a peaceful death and burial in Rabwah had been granted. She often asked her children and *Lajna* members to pray for her honorable ending. She wanted to live a life free of any dependence, physical or otherwise. Allah[swt] accepted her prayers. She caused no inconvenience to her children even at the time of her demise. The night before her death, she stayed up late, happily talking to all of us. (It was very uncharacteristic of her to stay up late.) And the next morning she peacefully breathed her last.

اِنَّا لِلّٰهِ وَ اِنَّآ اِلَيْهِ رٰجِعُوْنَ۝

She died on Friday morning July 15th, her burial took place on July16th, and the final grave stone was affixed on her grave three days later by July 19th; *Alhamdolillah.* It is astonishing how Allah's[swt] Grace took care of the yearnings of His truly humble servant for a blessed ending. May Allah[swt] always bless her and our late father with His love, grant them a high place in "*Janatul Firdous*", and continue to raise their stature in paradise. May Allah[swt] enable their progeny to follow in their righteous footsteps and to strive for His pleasure. *Ameen.*

رَّبِّ ارْحَمْهُمَا كَمَا رَبَّيٰنِيْ صَغِيْرًا

"And say, 'My Lord, have mercy on them even as they nourished me in my childhood.'". (Bani Israel, Chapter 17: verse 25)

؎ بلانے والا ہے سب سے پیارا اسی پہ اے دل تو جاں فدا کر

"The Summoner indeed is the most beloved; O my heart lay down thy life for Him"

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Highlights of Interfaith Symposium on Building Trust, Knowledge, and Kinship

Abdul Naseer M. Kakkada, Minnesota Jama'at

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, Minnesota Chapter participated in the Mankato Interfaith Gathering held on Saturday November 12, 2011 at the Hope Interfaith Center in Mankato. The question & answer session followed a brief introductory session where the representatives of Hindu, Buddhist, Christian and Islamic faith traditions introduced their respective faiths. The Interfaith Symposium was moderated by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq, President Minnesota Chapter. After an introduction of the panel of representatives by Dr. Muhammad Abdul Khaliq, Rev. Janis Gorman - an interfaith minister – shared with the audience the goal of her ministry, which works toward integrating and developing understanding of various faith traditions. She likened the diversity of faiths around us as different parts of a symphony and pointed out the importance of overlooking differences in religious dogma in attaining peace in the society.

Missionary Inamul Haq Kauser, explained that Islam is a universal religion, accepting of all faiths. He called upon everyone to learn about other faiths and thereby develop an understanding and trust of people of other faiths. In quoting a verse from the Holy Qur'an, he mentioned that three critical components of establishing peace in the society were: promoting justice, doing of good and treating each other like kin while any action involving indecency, manifest evil and transgression were to be avoided. He further mentioned a teaching of the Holy founder of Islam, Muhammad[saw], that even as the fingers of one hand are equal, none can be a true believer until he desires for others what is a desire for himself. In introducing the Messiah of the time, Hadhrat Ahmad of Qadian[as], as the champion of peace in the modern age, he echoed Hadhrat Ahmad's[as] call towards peace and unity in the world while stressing upon the need to desist from immoral actions.

Rev. Dean Wolf, a Centenary United Methodist Church pastor, talked about the importance of building trust in the society. While lamenting the prevalence of a culture of suspicion and prejudice in today's society, he observed that such need not be the case. As all human beings essentially form a large family, the need for establishing trust between people of different backgrounds is all the more urgent. Pastor Wolf concluded by reminding the audience that given the "Christian" traditional background of slavery and intolerance whereby teachings of the Bible were used to justify such acts, one always needed to be critical of the status quo. The next speaker, Kari Rice, introduced the Unitarian Universal Church. They consider Jesus[as] to be a missionary of God rather than as a deity. The UU Church is characterized by the absence of creed or ritual while striving to uphold a freedom of thought approach towards faith. The speaker shared the seven principles that Unitarians live by which includes the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals, justice, equity and compassion in human relations with a goal of establishing a community based on peace and justice. The Hindu representative, Dr. Rajiv Kapadia, aptly pointed out that hearing of other faith traditions reminded him of his own faith. In essence, he likened various faiths in the world to the spokes of a wheel that are all pointed towards a common origin. In conclusion, Dr. Kapadia, shared a Hindu proverb of leading one's life as a river which spreads water (source of life) to the far corners of a land. Dr. Tom Hagen, a professor of comparative religion, introduced Buddhism. Based on his study of religion, he mentioned that individuals are attracted toward faith in an attempt to address the question of what does it mean to be a human? As faiths seek to inculcate a philosophy in leading human beings on a path to answering such fundamental questions, rituals are utilized as a means to foster such philosophical codes. In noting the importance attached to rituals in various faith traditions, he mentioned that rituals often mislead human beings away from the main goal – of realizing one's purpose in life. Dr. Hagen concluded by sharing a Buddhist principle that the path towards enlightenment is not unique and that various faiths are like various guides to the same goal. The session was followed by a lively question and answer session where questions ranging from near death experiences to rights of women in Islam were discussed.

A DIALOGUE WITH A NON-AHMADI

Jamil Butt, Karachi, Pakistan

Recently I had a great opportunity to attend the 45th *Jalsa Salana* organized by Ahmadiyya Muslim *Jama'at* UK. The unique importance of this Jalsa was that Hadhrat Khalifatul Masih V[aba] also addressed it on three occasions, led all prayers and presided over the grand ceremony of Initiation in which 480,000 new converts round the globe participated through MTA (Muslim Television Ahmadiyya) which broadcasted the proceedings live. The *Jalsa* was attended by 29,300 including delegations of *Jama'at* from 98 countries. Many non-members dignitaries also attended and some briefly expressed their good wishes for the services being rendered by *Jama'at* in their countries such as ministers from Sierra Leone and Uganda. Hadhrat Sahib in his opening address impressed upon the *Jama'at* to always observe the highest traits of *Taqwa.* On second day he presented details of successes granted by Allah during past year by way building more houses of God, mission houses, printing books on *Deen,* and other showering blessings from God Almighty. In his last address he touched upon the subject of status of *Khatamun Nabiyyin* and highlighted that Ahmadis have full faith and have a clear understanding of this great status and believe in it out of love for beloved Hadhrat Muhammad[saw]. In short the *Jalsa* was very illuminating and soul refreshing.

Comments From Non-Ahmadi and Response

Comment - 1

As regards attendance of your *Jalsa* by thousands of people. Your *Jama'at* is miguiding those innocent and igorant people in the name of Islam. As regards advice of your 5th Sahib about *Taqwa.* it is good but the primary thing is the true and right faith. In the absence of true and right faith all your *Ibadat* etc will be thrown on your faces. Please accept Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him) is the last of His prophets in letter and spirit and reject Ghulam Ahmad. He was neither a *nabi*, *masih* or *mahdi.*

Response

The *Jama'at* by the grace of Allah, has spread all over the globe. The new people coming to its folds include highly educated and well placed people. Yes they are innocent but ignorant they are not. Even if some of them are not literate in a worldly sense there hearts are illuminated with divine guidance. They are among the *Ibad ur Rahman* whose prayers are heard and who act as a source of guidance for others. They are apparently Whites, Far Eastern or Blacks but all pretty well dyed in *'Sibghatullah'*. One has to see them to really know them.

We believe in Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] just the way he is manifested in the Holy Qur'an and we love him more than anybody else. We have accepted Hadhrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad[as] as his subordinate in accordance with prophecies told by the Holy Prophet[saw]. With this belief we are able to be practical believers and offer sacrifices for the propagation of *Deen-e-Haq.* In return we are blessed with ever showering Divine help and support as a community and in our individual lives in accordance with what God has promised with believers in following verses:

'Lo! those who say: Our Lord is Allah, and afterward are upright, the angels descend upon them, saying: Fear not nor grieve, but hear good tidings of the paradise which ye are promised. We are your protecting friends in the life of the world and in the Hereafter.' (41:30-31)

Comment - 2

'First of all it should be noted that Allah has the authority to decide whether there is a need of any *nabi* or not. Your deduction that since there were many *nabieen* subordinate to Hadhra Musa[as] therefore there could be *nabieen* subordinate to Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him), is totally wrong and could not be proved from Holy Qur'an and *Hadith*'

Response

I agree with you that for appointment of a *nabi* only Allah has the sole authority. A reference to the happening after Hadhrat Musa[as] was only to highlight the reality of the concept of subordinate prophets. The fact that it is Allah Almighty Who appointed Hadhrat Mirza Sahib as *Ummati Nabi* is separate and distinct and is provable by the Holy Qur'an and *Hadith.*

Comment - 3

As per your statement, your Sahib firstly claimed as *Mujaddid* then

upgraded himself to the positions of *Nabi*, *Masih* and *Mahdi*. Thus all posts were captured by him. As already stated *Nabi* is a position appointed by Almightly himself in a clear, straightforward and unambiguous manner. Thus in the absence of any clear cut proof, your Sahib may simply be treated as false.

Response

Status of a God appointed person and its manifestations are dependent on the need of the hour. As we see in the case of our Master, Hadhrat Muhammad[saw]. His many spiritual levels were not indicated initially but later on. Even the greatest of his status *Khatamun-Nabiyyinn* was revealed in 5th *Hijri* i.e. after 18 years of *Nabuwwat*. In the verses that followed this verse he was also declared to be *Shahid, Mubashir, Nazeer* and *Siraj-e-Munir*. The verses declaring him to be *Rahmatul-lil-Alemin* and *Sahib-e-Khulq-i-Azim* were also revealed much later. Hadhrat Mirza Sahib[as] was appointed as a *Mamoor-min-Allah* in 1882 and under this basic appointment his manifestations of being *Mujaddid, Imam Mahdi,* Second advent of Masih, and *Ummati Nabi* were revealed by God Almighty with the passage of time. So there was nothing unusual. His claim needs to be examined as per guiding principals laid down in Holy Qur'an and the special signs told about Masih and *Mahdi*

Comment - 4

As regards upgradation of your Sahib from *Mujaddid* to *Nabi*, *Masih Mahdi* etc. It was argued by you that Allah Almighty has addressed Hazoor with different names gradually so the same way it was revealed upon your Sahib. Please note the first claim of Hazoor as directed by Allah was that he has been sent (*Rasool*) by Allah who is one and alone. Whenvever a person embraces Islam he accepts and declares that Allah is one and Muhammad is his Messenger (*Rasool*). No body is asked to accept to that Hazoor is *Raoof & Raheem* (*Tauba*), *Sirajul Muneer, Rahmatallil Almeen* etc. Likewise if your Sahib was a *nabi* appointed by Allah his first declaration should have been about that. But he fulfilled his wishes gradually which is again a proof that he was not a *nabi.*

Response

Among the earlier revelations Hadhrat Mirza Sahib was addressed in Arabic by Allah Almighty in March 1882 (published in 3rd volume of his *book Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya* in 1883 which means 'Tell everybody that I am appointed by Allah and I am first among believers'. So he was also basically appointed as messenger of Allah and under this umbrella he claimed for different positions as and when God commanded him to do so. All his claims are thus manifestations of this very status.

Comment - 5

As I believe your Sahib before his false claim was following the *Hanafi* School of thought and your *shariat* still largely depends on the *Hanafi* School of thought. Thus (Allah forbid me) Imam Abu Hanifa is more deserving to the posts of *nabi* then your Sahib. Allah Almighty has made arrangements for the protection of Qur'an and *Hadith* (*Sunnah*) therefore there is no need of any new *nabi.* Doors of *ilm* are open to every person. Today we see many a non-Muslim read the Qur'an and embrace Islam. It is happening all over the world every day.'

Response

Hadhrat Imam Abu Hanifa[ra] was a *faqih.* He did not claim to be a prophet of God. Hadhrat Mirza Sahib, in his capacity as '*Hakam* and *Adal*' a trait of *Imam Mahdi*, upheld most of his *fiqhi* statements though also he changed many. It was part of *Tajdid-e-Deen* undertaken by him.

Comment - 6

You have accepted that most of your *shariat* depends upon the understandings of *Imam* Abu Hanifa as *faqih.* In other words your Sahib had accepted supremacy of Hadhrat Imam Abu Hanifa over him. Imam Abu Hanifa did not declare himself as *Nabi* because he knew that there is no *nabi* after Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him).

Response

Our *Shariat* is Holy Qur'an and it is supreme. The other sources of knowledge are *Sunnat* and *Hadith. Faqihs* only offered explanations. There are four schools of thoughts among *faqihs.* Hadhrat Sahib, being '*hakam* and *adal'* gave verdict that of these *Hanfi* is better. Still where needed he disagreed and instead offered corrections. In his capacity of *Ummati Nabi*, he was not given new laws, but he was to purify and reinforce the teachings as enshrined in the Holy Qur'an. And this is just what he did.

It is Allah's prerogative to decide the need of a prophet or otherwise. Unfortunately the addressees always consider the time of coming of a *nabi* as inappropriate and refuse to accept.

They even dare to offer this argument that the beliefs of their forefathers are enough for them, thereby alleging the claimant not to be timely. This story has been repeated time and again as quoted in Holy Qur'an.

Comment - 7

Further I have read all prophesies of Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *slam* on him) whereby he has predicted about the arrival of Hadhrat Isa in Syria. Those *Hadith* are in detail and clear. If you are interested to go through those hadis, then please refer to *Seeart-e-Sarwar-e-Alam* by Maulana Maudoodi.

Response

The *Hadith* you referred to does not say Damascus (Syria) but East of Damascus. Qadian where Hadhrat Mirza Sahib appeared is exactly East of Damascus and fulfills this prophecy. This therefore is another proof of his truth.

Comment - 8

I have read many predictions of Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him) about the arrival of Hadhrat Isa. He will arrive in Damascus accompanied by two angles. He will lead a holy war against *Dajjal*. According to many other such prophesies he will kill *Dajjal* and all Jews will be vanished from Palestine. He will declare pigs as *Haram* and Islam will be spread all over the world. In the presence of such clear cut predictions, you Sahib declared himself as *Masih* which is not understandable.

Response

The place of the appearance of Hadhrat Isa is mentioned in the *Hadith* not as Damascus but east of Damascus. Qadian is located exactly east of Damascus.

Angels are *nur* and cannot be seen by human beings and hence their coming is not verifiable. It actually refers to supporters. Hadhrat Mirza Sahib was granted many devoted companions.

Dajjal is not a specific person. It refers to the Christian priests who spread the *Dajjal* of trinity. In a *Hadith* Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] has advised to recite the last ten verses of *Surat Kahf* to defend against *Dajjal*. It clearly confirms this explanation. Hadhrat Mirza Sahib fought a tireless and successful holy war against Christianity. His heroic efforts have been praised by many Muslim scholars including Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Mirza Hairat Dahlavi, Prof. Syed Abdul Qadir, Khawaja Hasan Nizami, Maulvi Zafar Ali Khan, Maulvi Noor Mohammad Naqashbandi, Ch. Afzal Haq, Maulana Niaz Fatehpuri and in recent past in a TV program by Dr. Asrar Ahmad.

The defeat of this *Dajjal* at the hands of Hadhrat Mirza Sahib is so evident from the facts that Christians are forbidden to argue with Ahmadis and that they supported the demand to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslims in 1984.

Pigs are already declared *haram* in Holy Qur'an. Actually the *Hadith* says he will kill pigs. It of necessity does not refer to the breed of pigs but to humans of this nature. Hadhrat Mirza Sahib fought well with these people and with Divine help eliminated them all. These included among others Pandat Lekh Ram of India, John Hug Smith Pigott of UK and John Alexander Dowie of USA. All three were the worst enemies of Islam and Hadhrat Muhammad[saw].

The efforts initiated by Hadhrat Mirza Sahib and aggressively followed by his *Jama'at* to spread *Deen-e-Haq* in all corners of the world are open to all to see and admire. Building of houses of worship in many major world cities, printing of literature to spread the true message of *Deen* to all people of the world, printing of translations of the Holy Qur'an in 70 major languages of the world and establishing and running successfully a Channel, MTA , (www.mta.tv) devoted to spreading of teachings and Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] and the Holy Qur'an 24 hours a day across the globe are proof enough that the prophecy of Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] that Promised Messiah[as] will spread the message the world over has come true in letter and spirit.

Comment - 9

Regretfully, your Sahib supported the British Regime, an occupier which is another proof that your Sahib was a *Kazib*.

Response

Hadhrat Mirza Sahib praised the English for their justice which in comparison to the previous Sikh regime was a great blessing. In the Sikh rule Muslims were pathetically suppressed, the keeping of the Holy Qur'an and *Sahih Bukhari* was a crime, mosques were converted into horses' abode, calling *Adhan* was punishable, besides their honor being always at risk. With the coming of the English regime Muslims in Punjab were liberated to profess and practice

their religion and manage their mosques and other holy places with reverence. The Holy Qur'an teaches believers to be grateful to the good-doers. Hadhrat Mirza Sahib just did the same.

On the other hand, his mission was just contrary to the English plans for India. The English cherished the aim and using all resources at their command worked day and night for converting the country to Christianity. Their efforts bore fruits and thousands of Muslims became Christians. These also included their *Ulema* and *Pesh Imamas* in great numbers .In discharge of his divine responsibilities, Hadhrat Mirza Sahib boldly declared his opposite mission to defeat Christianity and make Islam the sovereign religion of the world. He fought this holy war through out his life and laid the foundations for the defense of Islam which cannot ever be side-stepped. Thus he was the strongest opponent of the declared mission of the English regime.

Comment - 10

All previous *nabiyyin* including Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him) broke the status quo and the first Muslims were always the poor and suppressed ones. They never supported *kufr* and occupiers.'

Response

We do not know about all the past prophets but none of the few prophets mentioned in Holy Qur'an, revolted against the establishments of their times. Hadhrat Yusuf[as] is even reported to have worked as minister in the regime of *Aziz-e-Misr,* the Egyptian *mushrik* king. Hadhrat Isa[as], as *per Injeel* taught his people to remain peaceful with the Roman King asserting *'jo qaisar ka hai qaisar ko do'*. (Give Ceaser what is Ceaser's)Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] entered into an agreement with *kuffar-e-Mecca* on the basis of the equality at Hudaibia. All this was to help restore peace, because in peace Divine gospels have better chances to flourish.

Comment - 11

As regards your claim that Isa did not defy the Romans. Can you please present any of his teachings whereby he asked his *Hawaries* to favor and support Romans and prayed for the Roman Empire as did your Sahib in the case of the British regime. I know and read many books about the *Ulemae Haq* who waged *Jihad* against Sikh/British regime and were either martyred or exiled such as Syed Ahmad Barelvi, Shah Ismaeel Shaheed, *Aseer-e-Malta*, Maulana Sindhi. There are hundreds and thousands of such *Ulema* who were martyred after 1857. I think your Sahib did not condemn that very act of the British occupiers. They had no right to occupy Indo Pak and rule and kill those who were opposing their regime. Your Sahib, very regretfully, however chose to favor the British regime and spent a peaceful life under protection provided by British occupiers. Today also your *Jama'at* is being protected by Christians and Jews.

The Qur'an does not tell about the faith of *Aziz-e-Misr* whose finance minster was Hadhrat Yusaf[as] so I cannot say any thing about *Aziz-e-Misr.*

Response

About the teachings of Hadhrat Isa to live peacefully under Romans kindly consider the following verses from Luke 20:22,25 of New Testament; '(they asked him) Is it lawful for us to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?
And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which the Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's.'

Please also consider the fact the New Testament nowhere teaches revolt against the Roman Empire.

The *Tahreek-e-Mujahidin* started in 1826 by Hadhrat Syed Ahmad Barelvi Sahib and his companion Hadhrat Ismaeel Sahib was only against the Sikh regime in Punjab and that too after seeking permission from the English governor (*Hayat-e-Tayyaba* by Mirza Hairat Dehlavi p 302). Both these elders specifically forbade Muslims from waging any *Jihad* against the English..

It is a myth that the mutiny of 1857 was participated by all Muslims and supported in by all *Ulema-e-haq*.. Maulana Ghulam Rasul Mehar in his book '1857 *Jang-e-Aazadi'* has named only 13 heroes of the war of which 6 are Hindus and Sikhs and only one Maulvi i.e. Rahmatullah Shaheed. On the other hand those who supported English included big names such as the Head of Turkish *Khilafat-e-Usmania* , Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, all *Ulema-e-Deoband*, Maulvi Mahboob Ali of Delhi, Maulvi Syed Rajab Ali Shah of Ludhiana, Maulvi Mohammad Ali of Bijnaur, *Makhdoom-o-Murshad* Shah Mahm-ood of Multan, the big families of Kharals, Tivanas, Gardezis, Qizalbash and the Muslim states of Rampur, Tonk, Plan pura, Bahawalpur and Hyderabad.

After 1857 till 1947, Muslims as a community always supported the English and were in return rewarded

by them. Some instances are as under: Sir Syed Ahmad Khan wrote '*Asbab Baghawat-e-Hind'* and dared to name the participants as rascals. The publication of an edict that *Jihad* with English is *haram* signed by all prominent *Ulema* of India. Declaration of English as *'oolul amar'* in translation of the Holy Qur'an by Maulvi Nazir Ahmad of Delhi. To pledge faithfulness to English by all new Muslim associations such as *Anjuman Islamia Punjab* Lahore in 1869, Anglo Muhammaden Defense Association in 1883, *Anjuman Himayat-e-Islam* Lahore in 1884, The jubilant celebrations of the 50th Jubilee of Queen Victoria
To help the English concur Egypt
Declaring Eid day in 1901 as *Muharram* by Allama Iqbal in condolence of death of Queen Victoria
Let the holding of ground breaking ceremony of *Darululoom Nudva* on 28th November 1908 by the holy hands of the then English Lt. Governor and to accept a grant of Rs.6,000 p.a. besides the piece of land on which the *Nudva* was built.
To whole heartedly pray for the greatness of the British Empire by the *Ulema-e-haq* and compose poems calling 'God save the King' by *Sahair-e-Mashriq Allama* Iqbal and Shair-e-Rasool Maulana Zafar Ali Khan.
To accept rewards from English in the form of the title of Sir for three generations (Sir Syed, Sir Mahmood, Sir Ras Masood), land, cash rewards, title of *Shams-ul-ulema*, by a large number of notable Muslims.

Your Statement that Hadhrat Sahib spent a peaceful life under protection provided by British occupiers is against the following facts.

During the period of public life of Hadhrat Mirza Sahib i.e., from 1882 to 1908 he remained a person openly disliked by English priests. At one time in its issue of October 24, 1894 the only semi official English newspaper of India Civil and Military Gazette, Lahore wrote under the title 'A Dangerous Fanatic'
'(he) is doubtless under the surveillance of the police. There is a subdued ferocity in his utterances that marks him out as dangerous possible crescentader. The Maulvi of Qadian has been under our observation for several years and ... it may probably become our duty in the near future to treat him at more length'.

His family land which was confiscated by the English after the 1857 mutiny was not returned in spite of a lengthy litigation. A pension allowed in lieu thereof was also stopped when Hadhrat Mirza Sahib became the head of the family after the death of his elder brother. Hadhrat Mirza Sahib was subjected to court cases initiated by English Govt. departments of Post in 1877, by Income Tax in 1898, and by the Police for maintenance of public order. His house was searched twice by police, on one occasion after the publication of a book by an opponent *Maulvi* in which he maligned him to be an agitator against English and second time after death as per his prophecy of a Hindu *Pandat*.. On many instances he was misbehaved in English courts during proceedings of cases instituted by opponents.

Your statement that today also your Jama'at is being protected by Christians and Jews, is devoid of any supporting facts and is only an unfounded allegation and not tenable.

Comments - 12

You would also agree that all *nabiyyin* possessed a single name. No one was named as boy/son/child or slave. The name of your Sahib was "Ghulam Ahmad" Ghulam in Arabic means boy/son while in urdu it means slave. Could you please mention the name of any *nabi* whose name was son/boy or slave. Thus it an other proof that your sahib was a liar. Most probably your Sahib was named by his elders with love and affection they had with Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him). But what happened later on was contrary to their wishes and beliefs as your sahib afterwards tried to encroach the position of Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him).'

Response

We know the names of only 28 prophets out of 124,000. So passing a judgment based on this scanty knowledge may not be rational. Names generally have nothing to do with somebody's profession. Perhaps this is the reason that nowhere in the Holy Qur'an or *Hadith* do we read any thing relating the two. Any such statement therefore is unfounded and only hearsay and not a valid argument.

It still seems to be divine destiny that Hadhrat Mirza Sahib was named as Ghulam Ahmad, the servant of Ahmad. He remained so through out his life time attributing all blessings showered upon him by God Almighty as a result of his obedience of Hadhrat Muhammad[saw]. He categorically said that it would have not been possible to raise to these spiritual exaltations if he was not a servant and *Ummati* of Hadhrat Muhammad[saw].

Comment - 13

The Holy Qur'an states that Hadhrat

Isa[as] informed about the arrival of Hadhrat Muhammad (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him) categorically by mentioning the name of Hazoor. There is no mention of the name of your Sahib in Qur'an or even in *Hadith* whereby Hazoor declared the arrival of your Sahib. Thus it has been proved without any doubt that the claim of your sahib was baseless'

Response

If prophecies were that straight there would have not been any disbeliever and also there would have not been any reward for believing. The sun is open to be seen by everybody but there is no *Jannat* for accepting it. If *Injeel* mentioned the name of Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] then why Christians did not believe in him? If Hadhrat Isa[as] was mentioned by name in the Torah why all Jews did not accept him and created all the fuss? Prophecies have to be interpreted and only those are able to reach the truth who have the blessings of God Almighty. The truth revealed itself on a *ghulam,* Hadhrat Bilal but remained hidden to the wisest of all in Mecca, the Abu Jahal.

Comment - 14

You have accepted that there is no clear cut, straightforward and unambigous prediction about the status of your Sahib either in the Qur'an and *Ahadith* while the name of Hazoor (unlimited *darood* and *salam* on him) was prophesied by Hadhrat Isa[as]. It is up to the people to accept or not but Almighty in a very clear way appoints His *Nabi* or *Rasool.* You cannot shelter under such *ta'weels* and remain in wishful thinking that since Hadhrat Isa[as] was not accepted by the Jews though named in *Torah* and Hazoor's (un-limited *darood* and *salam* on him) name though very clearly predicted by Isa[as] and *Injeel* was not accepted by Christians, therefore Allah did not name your Sahib in the Qur'an. This is a baseless argument. So if your Sahib was a true *nabi/maoor minaallah* or *masih* etc, his name should have been mentioned in the Quran. It was then up to the people whether to accept or not. So in the absence of a clear cut and unambiguous declaration, the the claim of your Sahib is baseless.

Response

It seems that I did not make my point more understandable. My assertion was that prophecies are never so clear cut and unambiguous that belief becomes so obvious as to believe in the rising sun. As a matter of record the *Torah* did not name Hadhrat Isa[as] and the *Injeel* did not name Hadhrat Muhammad[saw]. The word which is claimed to have been distorted by translators of new testaments is 'Ahmad' which of course was not *Aanhuzur's* proper name..

2. The Holy Qur'an indicates at many places about the coming of a reformer in *Ummat-e-Muhamm -adia..*

I. Verse 15 of *Sura Muzammil* states

> O people,) We have sent to you a messenger, as a witness over you, just as We sent a messenger to Pharaoh.

This resemblance should be on both ends. Hadhrat Musa[as] was followed after 1400 years by Hadhrat Isa[as] . So should Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] be followed by second advent of Hadhrat Isa[as] i.e., the Promised Messiah in 14th century..

II. In verse 2 of *Sura Jumu'ah* the advent of Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] is narrated and the next verse prophesizes also of his coming to '*Aakhereen*' i.e., the people of the Latter Days. This second advent of Hadhrat Muhammad[saw] is a prophecy of an *Ummati Nabi.*

III. In the following verse 81 of *Sura Aal-e-Imran* a covenant is described which Allah took from all prophets. as under

> 'When Allah made the prophets enter into a covenant: (saying) "If I give you a book and wisdom, then comes to you a messenger verifying what is with you, you shall have to believe in him, and you shall have to support him." He said, "Do you affirm and accept my covenant in this respect?" They said, "We affirm." He said, "Then, bear witness, and I am with you among the witnesses." (81)

Then in verse 7 of *Sura Ahzab* this covenant is again referred to with special mention that it was also taken by Hadhrat Muhammad[saw]. This clearly prophesizes coming of more messengers following his footsteps.

IV. These indicative prophesies were fully explained in *Ahadith* wherein this messenger is named as Imam Mahdi, Promised Messiah and *Ummati Nabi.*

All this however is useful to only those who are willing to understand and seek truth as it is the desire to seek truth, an open mind, unprejudiced approach, and prayers that can lead one to the right decision. God helps those who help themselves.

REGIONAL WAQFE NAU IJTEMA MIAMI (JANUARY 22, 2012)

Hammad Malik

This year with the grace of Allah we held our Southeast regional *Waqfe Nau Ijtema* on January 22nd 2012 in Miami at Hallandale Ahmadiyya mosque. We had a very good attendance of 15 – 16 *Waqifeen* and *Waqifaate Nau. Ijtema* was also attended by local President of Miami *Jama`at* and local Secretary *Waqfe Nau.* Assistant National Secretary *Waqfe Nau,* Mahmood Ahmad Sahib represented National Secretary *Waqfe Nau* Hafiz Samiullah Chaudhary Sahib who was out of the country. Orlando *Jama`at* was represented by *Waqifeene Nau* and Regional Secretary *Waqfe Nau,* Haris Mirza Sahib. Besides *Waqifeene Nau* attendees, we saw many parents and other local members who came to encourage attendees. Three judges were prearranged for men's as well as ladies' sides for various competitions. Girls younger than 7years were asked to participate on the boys side. Simultaneous competitions were held on both the men's as well as the ladies' sides.
The *Ijtema* started at 11 AM after breakfast and tea. Opening remarks were delivered by local President Miami *Jama`at.* Assistant National Secretary *Waqfe Nau* Mahmood Ahmad Sahib also spoke and discussed the importance and goals of the *Ijtema.* Then recitation of the Holy Qur'an was done by Naeem Ahmad Khalid. This was followed by a poem by Mohammad Mudassar. Later on, we had a good participation in various competetions in all the age groups.

Mahmood Ahmad Virk, aged 3, was the youngest *Waqfe Nau* child to say a few words to the audience. We had a good presentation by all age groups who were very excited for the presentations. Even some other children who were family members of the *Waqifeene Nau* in smaller age groups of 3-5 years showed keen interest in recitation of the *Qaseedah* which was very heart moving. Particular stress was laid in the competition on recitation of prayers, *Ahadith* and Qur'anic verses. It was surprising to see how small *Waqifeene Nau* in the less than 10 years age group were able to memorize many attributes of Allah besides other prayers and Qur'anic verses. Before lunch, the competition of ages 15 -18 was held for Holy Qur'an memorization and speeches on the topics of *Seerat Rasool Allah*saw and Seerat Masih Mau-'ood as.

The competitions were followed by lunch which was organized by the local *Jama'at* for all the attendees and guests. After lunch, *Salaat Zuhar* and *Asr* were done in congregation. This was followed by talk show for *Waqifeene Nau* and power point presentation for the *Waqifaate Nau.*

The *Ijtema* concluded with recognition and awards ceremony. The concluding address was given by Mahmood Ahmad Sahib. The *Ijtema* came to a successful end with silent prayers around 3:15 PM.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

(February 24, 2012)

Qur'an opposes acts of would-be bomber

I respond to the Associated Press article "Would-be terrorist gets life in prison" in last Friday's *Dispatch.* I am very happy that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the "underwear bomber," was arrested and finally given a mandatory life sentence by the court.

As an Ahmadi Muslim, I would say Islam rejects all terrorism and teaches fair dealings with all people.
The Muslim holy book, the Holy Quran, does not have any root whatsoever for the terrorists in it.

When Muslims had war imposed on them during the time of the Holy Prophet of Islam, the Qur'an 60:8-9 says, "Allah forbids you not, respecting those who have not fought against you on account of your religion and who have not driven you forth from your homes, that you be kind to them and act equitably toward them ... Allah only forbids you, respecting those who have fought against you on account of your religion, and have driven you out of your homes and have helped others in driving you out, that you make friends of them; it is these that are the transgressors."

What enemies did Abdulmutallab hope to kill on the plane? Moreover, which verse of the Holy Qur'an is supporting him to commit suicide?

MIRZA AHMAD

BOLETÍN AHMADÍA

"Llevaré tu mensaje hasta los últimos rincones de la tierra"

Del Sagrado Corán

Diles: " !Oh Gente del Libro! Venid a una palabra que es igual entre nosotros y vosotros: que no adoremos a nadie que no sea Allah y no asociemos a nadie con Él y que ninguno de nosotros tomemos a nadie por Señor aparte de Allah." Pero si vuelven la espalda, diles: Sed testigos de que nos hemos sometido a Dios."

[C. 3: Vs: 65]

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LA COMUNIDAD AHMADÍA DEL ISLAM

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908)

El Movimiento Ahmadía del Islam fue fundado en 1889 por Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908) quien afirmó ser el Reformador esperado de los Últimos días, el Esperado por todas las comunidades religiosas del mundo (el Mahdi y el Mesías). El Movimiento que inició es un compendio del mensaje conciliador del Islam: paz, hermandad universal y sumisión a la Voluntad de Dios, en su pureza original. Hazrat Ahmad declaró que el Islam era la religión del hombre: "La religión de la gente del camino recto" (98:6)

Escritos del Mesías Prometido

"Cuando Dios Todopoderoso ha visto al mundo sumido en iniquidades, transgresiones y pecados, me ha levantado para poner fin a su estado de degradación y me ha ordenado predicar la verdad y librar al mundo de los males que le rodean. Cuando concluyó el siglo trece de la Hillra y comenzó el siglo catorce, anuncié mi misión como Reformador Prometido para reinstaurar y revivir de nuevo la fe que ha desaparecido de la faz de la tierra y, con la fuerza obtenida de Dios, conducir al mundo, con la poderosa atracción de Su mano, hacia la virtud, piedad y rectitud, alejando los errores que prevalecen en las doctrinas y prácticas."

Hadiz (Relatos del Santo Profeta

Abu Huraira narró que el Santo Profeta (sa) dijo:

"Al-lah Todopoderoso dice: "Mi siervo transgrede contra mí aunque no le corresponde obrar así. Me injuria aunque no es de su incumbencia hacerlo. Transgrede contra mí al afirmar: "Al-lah, el Todopoderoso, no me resucitará (tras mi muerte) después de haberme creado". Y comete injusticia contra Mi al afirmar que "Dios ha tomado para Sí un hijo" cuando Yo soy Autosuficiente, de Quien depende todo lo demás. Nunca engendré ni fui engendrado y no hay nadie que sea igual a Mí".

(Masnad Ahmad)

Profecía sobre la Tercera Guerra Mundial

…El Mesías Prometido (as) aseguró asimismo que una Tercera Guerra Mundial, de proporciones aún mayores, vendría después de la segunda. Los dos campos antagónicos chocarían tan repentinamente, que ambos se verían cogidos por sorpresa. La muerte y la destrucción lloverían desde el cielo y las llamas furibundas devorarían la tierra.

Los colosos de la civilización moderna caerán al suelo. Tanto el bloque comunista como el bloque opuesto perecerán en la demanda. Rusia y sus satélites, por un lado, y Estados Unidos y sus aliados, por otro, serán destruidos; su poderío quedará deshecho, su civilización será arruinada y sus sistemas hechos añicos. De semejante calamidad, Rusia ha de recuperarse antes que Occidente. La profecía dice bien claro que el pueblo ruso se recuperará multiplicándose rápidamente. Se avendrá a la idea del Creador y aceptará el Islam y a su Santo Profeta (saw). Un pueblo que intenta borrar el nombre de Dios sobre la faz de la tierra y expulsarlo del cielo se dará cuenta de la locura de su actitud y finalmente se someterá a Él, creyendo firmemente en Su Unidad y Unicidad.

Podéis considerarlo una fantasía. Pero los que sobrevivan a la Tercera Guerra Mundial testimoniarán y darán fe de la verdad de cuánto he dicho. Son palabras del Dios Todopoderoso. Se cumplirán. Su designio no puede evitarlo nadie.

El fin de la Tercera Guerra Mundial marcará el comienzo del triunfo del Islam. La gente aceptará en masa su verdad, convenciéndose de que únicamente el Islam es la religión verdadera y que la emancipación del hombre sólo ha de conseguirse mediante el mensaje de Muhammad (saw).

SERMÓN DEL VIERNES

Hazur dijo que hoy en día existe un tipo u otro de crisis en todo el mundo. Esto se debe a que el hombre ha olvidado el objetivo de su creación, es decir, la adoración a Dios y el intento por lograr la proximidad divina. Sin duda, la proximidad divina no puede lograrse sin la adoración a Dios.

La verdadera adoración consiste en eliminar las asperezas y deshonestidades propias y limpiar el terreno del corazón de escoria, piedras y desniveles, hasta convertirnos en un alma pura.

La mayoría de las personas no están directamente involucradas en el mal o en los conflictos, pero el entorno les influye de un modo u otro, y participando inconscientemente en la transgresión. Un claro ejemplo de esto es la persecución de los áhmadis en todo el mundo, especialmente en Pakistán.

La corrupción en la religión destruye el desempeño de las obligaciones hacia Dios y hacia la humanidad. Esto es lo que sucede en la historia de la religión. Cuando aparece la corrupción en la religión, Dios envía a Sus profetas para reformar a la gente, quienes les amonestan para que adoren a Dios. Así, Dios envió al Santo Profeta (saw), y enseñó, a través suyo, la manera de adorar a Dios.

El Mesías Prometido (as) dijo que a través del *istighfar* (súplica del perdón), el hombre intenta suprimir y evitar los sentimientos y pensamientos que le apartan de Dios. *Istighfar* significa, pues, que la el hombre triunfa sobre las materias tóxicas que le atacan e intentan destruirle y, tras evitar los obstáculos del camino que lleva al cumplimiento de los mandamientos de Dios, comienza a practicar realmente estos mandamientos.

En cierta ocasión una persona preguntó al Mesías prometido (a) por un *Wazifah* (oración formulista). El Mesías Prometido (as) respondió: "Recita *istighfar* profusamente. El hombre posee sólo dos condiciones: o bien no comete ningún pecado o Al-lah, el Exaltado, lo salva de las malas consecuencias del pecado.

Actualmente existe confusión a causa de las malas acciones de la gente. Los dirigentes que pretenden ser amados por las masas son los peores a los ojos de las mismas y hay indicios de que se producirá un cambio inminente en aquellos que supuestamente son los predilectos. Los cambios en los gobiernos a consecuencia de la crisis en todo el mundo han generado un desorden aún más grave. Debemos orar profusamente para que Dios pueda salvar al mundo del conflicto.

(Sermón del Viernes, 13 de enero del 2012)

YALSA SALANA USA

Los días 29 y 30 de Junio y el 1 de Julio se celebrará en Harrisburg, Pensilvania la Convención Anual de la Comunidad Ahmadía USA. Entre otros programas relevantes, se tiene previsto organizar una sesión especial en español, que incluirá alocuciones sobre temas actuales del Islam y sesiones de preguntas y respuestas, y en la que podrá participar nuestro público de habla hispana. En nuestra próxima edición se informará del programa previsto con más detalle. Para mayor información sobre este evento, por favor, dirijan sus consultas a la Mezquita Baitul Rahman., Silver Spring, MD.

Comunidad Humanitaria

Humanity First

Humanity First es una organización caritativa radicada en el Reino Unido, establecida por la Comunidad Ahmadía con el fin de promover y salvaguardar la vida y la dignidad humana. Es una agencia de desarrollo y ayuda internacional, apolítica y no-sectaria, que trabaja con diversas comunidades, en todo el globo, para mejorar la calidad de vida de los más pobres y vulnerables. La mayoría de sus miembros son voluntarios que sirven a la humanidad mediante sacrificios desinteresados, afecto y devoción. Su objetivo es aliviar el sufrimiento causado por desastres naturales y los conflictos humanos, promover la paz y comprensión, y reforzar la capacidad de las personas de ayudarse mutuamente. Visite la página web oficial: http://humanityfirst.org

Humanity First de Guatemala

Somos una organización no lucrativa y no gubernamental. Nuestra misión es servir en el desastre y en la desventaja social a los individuos y a las familias de las comunidades más pobres de Guatemala. Por ello nuestros proyectos son auto sostenibles, para aumentar el nivel de desarrollo productivo en nuestro país.

El Don de la vista

Humanity First Guatemala realizó una jornada oftalmológica en la Aldea Camanchá en Chichicastenango, Quiché. En noviembre del 2011 se realizaron 60 evaluaciones, se entregaron ayudas de optometría y medicinas; además de 30 cirugías menores hechas por los alumnos del Posgrado y el Instituto Panamericano contra la Ceguera; Además, el equipo de Humanity First, liderado por el Dr. Ahsan Khan evaluó a 125 pacientes quienes recibieron ayuda en optometría y medicinas; también se realizaron 29 cirugías de cataratas.

Yalsa Salana Guatemala

Abdul Sattar Khan, Amir de Guatemala, Daud Hanif, Naib Amir de EE.UU. y el hermano David González, se reunieron con el ex presidente de Guatemala (actual alcalde de la capital de Guatemala) el Sr. Alvaro Arzú. Imam Daud Hanif habló con el alcalde sobre los objetivos de la Jamaat, la naturaleza de la comunidad musulmana Ahmadia, y de los esfuerzos humanitarios y de ayuda de Humanity First.

Imam Sahib de Guatemala también presentó al alcalde Arzú una copia del Sagrado Corán y la filosofía de las enseñanzas del Islam. Imam Sahib agradeció al alcalde por sus años de servicio a Guatemala y sus grandes avances realizados para garantizar la paz y la seguridad de la nación

Se recibió un mensaje de Hazur que fue leído por el Imam Daud Hanif en Inglés y traducido al español por el hermano David González. Esto marcó la apertura del Yalsa Salana de Guatemala 2011.

Después de leer el mensaje de Hazur al Yalsa, el Amir de Guatemala detalló las características de un musulmán Ahmadi. Sobre todo, la obediencia al Sagrado Corán, el Profeta (saw), y al Jalifato. Hizo hincapié en que un Ahmadi debe mostrar una fuerte conexión con la oración y sembrar un profundo amor por Al-lah, un carácter digno de confianza, honorable, un carácter caritativo y generoso, dispuesto a hacer sacrificios en el camino de Al-lah. En sus hogares, los musulmanes Ahmadis tratan a sus cónyuges y familiares con respeto y compasión. Terminó su discurso orando para que Al-lah establezca la supremacía del Islam en todo el mundo y para que se acerquen los corazones de la humanidad a la adoración del Dios Único.

Cartas al Editor

En esta sección se publicará la correspondencia de los lectores con sus opiniones, preguntas y dudas respecto al Ahmadía y a la religión islámica en general.

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Taleem-ul-Quran and Waqf-e-Ardhi

This issue of the Taleem-ul-Quran and Waqf-e-Ardhi (TaQWA) report includes highlights from the Waqf-e-Ardhi team, covering the team's pilot testing activities. This is a major milestone for the Waqf-e-Ardhi team. The TaQWA-IT team has started several new and interesting projects and we hope to include updates from these projects in upcoming issues, InshaAllah.

Waqf-e-Ardhi Application
by Anees Ahmad

The on-line Waqf-e-Ardhi (WA) application allows devotees to register for serving the community in various religious, technical and life skills areas. Alhamdo Lillah, all functional modules of Waqf-e-Ardhi (WA), including the devotee registration, sign-up, needs profile submission and assignment management, have been implemented successfully. This application is based on state of the art IT technologies, such as Zend (PHP MVC framework), JQuery (AJAX framework), MySQL database server, and Eclipse (PHP Plugin). This application can be used by non-US Jama'ats, if needed.

Inspire | Educate | Mobilize

Taleem-ul-Quran and Waqf-e-Ardhi (con't)

The WA team spent the month of December testing the various modules of this application and implementing new features, fixing over one hundred defects. Several members of the Seattle and Potomac Jama'ats have been enrolled to perform the pre-pilot testing of this application. The objective of pre-pilot testing is to solicit feedback from the end users for making this application more user-friendly and useful for meeting the goals and objectives of the WA scheme. Three online training sessions were conducted for the pre-pilot testers. Training material, including the test plan, defects log and User Manual were prepared and distributed to the testers ahead of time. The pre-pilot testing is in process now and is scheduled to be completed by the end of January, InshaAllah.

During the month of February, the WA team plans to fix any new defects reported by the pre-pilot testers. After the pre-pilot testing phase is over, the team will start the pilot implementation with select Jama'ats to ensure the application is ready to go live across all US Jama'ats. The production phase is expected to start in the 2nd quarter of 2012. In the mean time, we will also continue to implement as many new features as possible. We plan on compiling a list of the lessons learned and best practices from Phase 1 to help us become more efficient in Phase 2. These best practices and lessons learned will be shared with the IT teams working on other TaQWA projects.

The WA team continues to be pressed by lack of resources and time. We are always in need of experienced database, software and website developers, who can help us enhance the functionality and look of this web-based application. If you are interested in volunteering for TaQWA, please visit the 'Volunteer for TaQWA' page on altaqwa.us. All Jama'at members are requested to pray for our success and our dedicated team members.

Taleem-ul-Quran Class

by Fazal Qureshi, TaQWA Secretary, Southeast Region

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful

The TaQWA department arranged Taleemul Qur'an Class at Baitul Aafiat in Orlando, FL on January 14, 2012. The class was organized by the TaQWA team and hosted by the Orlando Jama'at. A large number of local Jama'at members attended the class, including Ansar/Khuddam and Lajna/Nasirat, benefiting greatly from the opportunity.

Below is an outline of the activities of the class:

- Class started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Sohail Khan Sahib.
- Naeemullah Khan Sahib explained the rules of correct pronunciation and pointed out common mistakes many people make.
- Col. Fazal Ahmad Sahib led an enlightening session on the topic of justice in the universe, taken from *Surah Al-Rahman.*
- Dr. Zaheeruddin Mansoor Sahib gave an overview of the many activities taking place under the TaQWA department.
- The President of the Orlando Jama'at, Dr. Wajeeh Bajwa Sahib, delivered the closing remarks and thanked the team for their strong efforts. The session concluded with the silent prayer.

(Jazaka'Allah Tariq Waheed Sahib for helping to prepare this report)